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## Heat Stroke!!!



Summer is here, and it's **HOT** outside! **Hotter** than some of us have ever experienced, especially our beloved dogs! If you and your best friend will be spending time outdoors, make sure that you watch your dog closely for signs of **overheating** and **heat stroke**.

Many people don't even realize that their dog is **overheating**. That happy, long tongue is letting you know your dog is **HOT!** **Heat stroke** is a very real danger for your dog and will cause nausea, loss of consciousness, brain damage, and even death. So, make sure your dog has access to a nice, shady place to cool off, with plenty of fresh water to keep him cool & hydrated.

When it's really **hot** outside – even a casual walk can lead to **heat stroke** especially if your dog is older or out of shape. Keep your exercise routine to early morning or evenings when it's cooler.

**NEVER** leave your dog in your car during hot weather. Dogs left in cars, even with the window cracked open, can **overheat** very quickly during the summer.

*\*Today's excessive heat prompted a channel 7 news person to actually **COOK** sunny-side eggs in a skillet on top of the dashboard!!! That's insane, but they cooked with **NO** problem.*

Here's how to recognize **heat stroke** in your pet. If your dog is suffering from **heat stroke**, he will be:

- panting excessively
- have redness around his eyes
- show signs of weakness
- irritability
- may start vomiting
- collapse



You can try to cool him down by giving him cool water to drink – not cold water. Cold water may make him vomit.

Try to sponge him down with a cool wet towel especially on the chest area, or soak him in a tub of cool water and keep a fan on him.

In extreme cases where your dog's gums are grayish, his tongue is blue, or he is unconscious, call your veterinarian. Severe **heat stroke** is an emergency, and you may need to make a quick trip to the veterinarian or emergency clinic.

\*July 22, 2011

#### Resources

To see how fast your car can get hot even with the window cracked open, visit [www.mydogiscool.com](http://www.mydogiscool.com)

Information on heatstroke can be found at [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com)

*unleash your dog's unwanted behaviors and love them to a balanced life  
~Alice Marino*