



FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control – Urges Pet Owners to Keep Pets Cool!

PHOENIX – Triple-digit temps are here and FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control – is urging pet owners to take special precautions ...

Bring pets indoors! If possible, keep Fido inside. Just like people, pets prefer being out of the sun and inside an air-conditioned environment.

Limit your pets exercise! Walk your dog early in the morning, or later in the evening after the sun has set. And don't forget that pavement stays warm even after sundown; if the sidewalk is too hot for your bare feet; chances are its too hot for your pooch!

Never leave your pet in a parked car! The temperature inside a vehicle can skyrocket in just a few moments. On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly, can reach 102 degrees within ten minutes.

Keep pets out of the sun! Hairless breeds and dogs with very light, short hair are susceptible to sunburn. Be sure to provide your pooch with plenty of shade!

Provide plenty of water! Be sure your dog has lots of fresh, cool water. Keep several weighted, non-metal bowls throughout your home and yard to ensure that Fido always has an unlimited supply.

Recognize the signs of heatstroke! Just like people, pets can over-exert themselves and the results can be fatal. Heavy panting, glazed eyes, lethargy, rapid heartbeat, excessive thirst, fever, staggering and fatigue are all signs of heatstroke. If your animal exhibits any of these symptoms, move him into a shady or air-conditioned area; apply cool towels to his head, neck and chest; and let him drink small amounts of cool water or ice cubes. Contact your veterinarian immediately!

Beware of "special needs" pets! Snub-nosed dogs such as pugs, Boston terriers and bulldogs may have difficulty with the heat due to their shortened snouts. Older and overweight dogs may tend to be more susceptible to heat and heatstroke.

Watch pets around water! Many dogs love the water. But be sure your pet knows how to exit the swimming pool. A quick swim could be fatal if Fido doesn't know how to find the steps to get out of the pool.

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FACC's – Friends of Animal Care & Control is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to end euthanasia of healthy and adoptable dogs and cats in our community by raising funds to support the non-mandated programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. For more information, visit www.azfaccs.org.