



Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

781 Tiger Oak Drive | Pike Road, AL 36064-3063 | 334.395.0086 | Fax: 334.270.3399

Protecting People, Pets and Livestock - Yesterday, Today and Always.

PRESS RELEASE

ALVMA Warns of Extreme Heat Dangers for Pets

July 22, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. - The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association wants to remind pet owners to be prepared to protect their pets against the extreme heat. As the summer days become even hotter, we need to think about our pets and how they will be affected by the high temperatures. With much of the state under a heat advisory, the ALVMA urges pet owners to keep their pets safe.

Here are some tips to protect your animals from the heat:

All animals that are outdoors should have access to shade throughout the day.

Even with shade, when heat indexes reach triple digits, pets can be stressed to the point of illness. Whenever possible, bring them in when temperatures are extreme.

Keep plenty of fresh water available at all times, make sure it is located out of direct sun.

Older and obese dogs, puppies and dogs with health issues are less tolerant of heat. Certain short-nosed dog breeds (Pugs, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, Boxers, Shih Tzus and French Bulldogs) have difficulty in the heat and are more prone to problems.

NEVER leave your pet in the car, even with the windows partially down. It may not even be that hot outside, but temperatures can rise quickly in just a matter of minutes in an automobile, reaching 120-160 degrees.

Dogs can't perspire to cool themselves off, so they have to pant. If the air that they are taking in is too hot (as it is in a parked car in hot weather), then panting has little cooling effect and the dog quickly overheats. It is best to leave your pet at home, and reward him with a treat.

If you see a pet in a parked vehicle, call the police.

Walk your pet in the cooler hours of the day, bring water for them and remember to keep them off the hot pavement which can burn their paws.

Signs of Heat Stress include: vigorous panting at rest, glassy eyes, unwilling to rise, excessive drooling, unsteadiness, abnormal gum and tongue color, frothing from nose or mouth and rigid muscles.

If you find a pet in trouble:

- Remove them from the hot environment: (shade, indoors).

- No ice or cold water applied.

- Nothing by mouth.

- Wet body with cool (not cold) water.

- Transport to a veterinarian.

Normal temp = 101.5, if it goes just a few degrees above this the pet can experience organ damage.

Veterinarians see and treat many cases of heat stress and heat stroke. Unfortunately, many are fatal. This is definitely a case where prevention is the cure. Do these preventive things, plus be aware of the signs of heat stroke and get your pets to the doctor in time to save their life!

Founded in 1907, The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association is comprised of approximately 700 veterinarians from around the state, all committed to protecting People, Pets and Livestock – Yesterday, Today and Always.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Linda Tynan

Director of PR & Communications
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
334.395.0086 • fax 334.270.3399

ltynan@franzmgt.com

www.alvma.com