

HEAT AND FAMILY PETS

KEEPING PETS SAFE DURING A HEAT ADVISORY, WATCH OR WARNING

The Central Ohio Animal Response Team offers the following tips on caring for pets when the heat index rises above 100 degrees:

- Keep pets inside when possible, especially very young, very old and pregnant animals. When in doubt, do not leave your pet outside.
- Avoid areas inside that may not have enough air flow, such as garages or porches.
- If your pet is normally outdoors, temporarily move them into areas of increased shade and off of blacktop or asphalt.
- Water should be checked and changed often so that it does not become too hot to drink. When possible, provide an oversized water bowl and secure it so that it does not get knocked over.
- Make sure chains and cables are not tangled and can not become tangled so that it keeps the pet from getting to shade or shelter.
- Avoid unneeded exercise for your pets.
- Never leave pets in a parked car in hot weather for any length of time, unless the air conditioning is running.

STAY ALERT AND SAVE A LIFE

- Keep an eye on all outdoor pets.
- Make sure any pet you see has enough water and shelter.
- If you see a pet in distress, give the pet immediate relief by providing water, and then contact animal care agencies.
 - For Franklin County, Ohio: Call 614-777-7387 or 614-645-6748.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

If you think a pet is victim to heat exhaustion (extreme panting, hot to the touch, non-responsive, rectal temperature greater than 104°F, possible seizures), *immediately* move them to a cool area and keep applying cool water to the animal's *body* to reduce the temperature to a normal state.

Once the pet is responding to you, offer small amounts of cool water often and contact your veterinarian for further care.

Central Ohio Animal Response Team is a group of volunteers that responds to the health needs of people and animals involved in an emergency.

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