



## TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR YOUR PETS IN SUMMER HEAT!

While you are trying to keep cool and have fun this summer, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Animal Services Division wants to provide you with some quick reminders.

- Always take your animals out of the vehicle when you leave the vehicle. Even on a moderately warm day, the temperature in the car can climb to fatally high levels in a matter of minutes, even if the windows are rolled down and the vehicle is parked in the shade.
- Your pets should have access proper food, water or shelter. Think about these things before leaving your pet outdoors – whether you are home or away. Freeze some water in plastic containers to add to your pet's water dish, this way their water stays fresh and cool longer.
- Pets should be walked or exercised in the early morning or later in the evening. The heat will cause premature exhaustion and the hot pavement can damage the soft padding on dog's paws.
- If you are hitting the beach or another sunny spot with your dog, be sure to apply sunscreen, especially for hairless or short-haired breeds. Apply it around 20 minutes prior to going outdoors. Be sure to reapply if your dog goes swimming.
- During the hottest months of the year, it may be tempting to shave your dog or give them a close haircut but experts say this is not usually needed. Dogs' coats are designed to protect them from sunburn and should be left alone. If your dog has a particularly thick coat and you feel your dog could benefit from a haircut, speak with your veterinarian first.
- Always supervise pets around pools and other bodies of water. Not all dogs are good swimmers and pets can become sick from drinking water with chemicals in it or bacteria (such as a pond or lake).
- Summer is cookout season so be sure to know which foods are safe and which are not before inviting your pets to the party. Even a small amount of some foods can be toxic and you should never give pets any alcohol.
- Leave pets at home in a safe space with white noise or calming music if you're heading out to watch fireworks. They are colorful and fun for humans but can terrify animals and cause them to run away in fear.

Signs that an animal is suffering from heat stroke include:

- excessive panting and salivation
- glassy staring
- high pulse rate
- dizziness
- vomiting

If an animal is suffering from heat stroke, they require immediate veterinary attention. Immediate first aid action may include applying ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest. As always, if you need a field response from an Animal Services officer please call our non-emergency number 336-727-2112. If it is an animal emergency such as an animal in distress locked in a hot car, contact your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.