



# NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services

221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)

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## For Immediate Release

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## Safety Tips for Your Furry Family Members Playing Safe in Hot Weather

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Dogs and cats do not sweat, they cool themselves by rapid breathing. When the temperature outside is hot and close to their internal body temperature, it means animals must work hard to stay cool.

Too much heat can be extremely dangerous and sometimes fatal. If your dog or cat begins very rapid, noisy breathing, has trouble swallowing and looks very distressed, he or she could be having a heatstroke. Heatstroke is an emergency. Get the animal out of the heat, cool him or her off and then take the animal to the veterinarian immediately.

The best plan is to keep your companions protected from the summer heat.

- Make sure that your dog or cat always has plenty of fresh water to drink. Some dogs love ice cubes, and you can add a few to the water bowl.
- Some dogs enjoy walking through or even lying in a child's wading pool.
- Car interiors heat very quickly, even with the windows open. If it's 90 degrees out, temperatures can top 160 degrees faster than you can walk around the block. Therefore, it is dangerous to leave your dog or cat in a car for 5 minutes. **If he or she can't go inside at every stop with you, the animal is safer at home on hot days!**
- Animals who go outside need access to shade. Dark coats absorb heat. Lighter coated animals, especially white ones, are at higher risk for skin cancer from exposure to the sun and are more susceptible to sunburn.
- If you go for a walk, make sure your buddy can walk in the grass. Pavement gets very hot and can burn their feet and, since they are lower to the ground, the heat coming off of the pavement makes pets even hotter.

Your companion animals want to be with you. You can bet that what they will enjoy most during the heat, like always, is being close to you. They will be safer and cooler inside with you, doing what they do best: being your *best friend!*

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at 1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381 (TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)