

# COOL PETS

The Department of Environment and Heritage is encouraging people to be mindful of their pets' welfare during the hot weather. Extreme temperatures can have a devastating effect on animals, so it's important to take the time to keep pets cool and safe over the summer months.

Below are some helpful tips on how to keep pets comfortable during the hot weather.

1. Prevent burning and skin cancer by keeping pets indoors between 10.00am - 3.00pm.
2. Provide pets with access to cool, clean water. Animals will drink more water during the summer months so it's often a good idea to provide pets with two drinking bowls in case one runs out or gets knocked over. You can also freeze an icecream container of water and leave it to slowly thaw throughout the day, further ensuring that your pets' water remains cool.
3. Make sure that your pets have access to cool, shady areas.
4. Move aquariums and bird cages away from direct sunlight and keep the curtains drawn. Sun shining through the glass may be hot enough to harm pets.
5. Take care that cages which are in the shade during the morning aren't exposed to the hot afternoon sun as the shade moves.
6. Old animals and the very young are more susceptible to heat stress and should be provided with special care during hot weather.
7. Dog's paws are sensitive so care needs to be taken when walking them on pavements and bitumen roads in hot weather as the pavement is likely to be hot (test it out with your bare feet - if it uncomfortable for you it is probably too hot for them). Perhaps walk your dog in the evening when the temperature cools down.
8. Not all dogs can get out of swimming pools, so make sure that pool security gates are locked at all times unless someone is present. Also ensure the bars of the fence are close enough together so as to stop any excited dogs squeezing through.
9. Rabbits and guinea pigs living in hutches outside need to be kept in the shade and have access to water at all times. This is even more important if the hutch has a metal roof. Frozen plastic bottles of water placed in the hutch will also help to keep them cool.
10. Never, ever leave a pet in a car under any circumstances. The inside temperature of a car can double in minutes and pets can die from heat exhaustion. Leaving the windows down does not prevent the temperature from rising.
11. If you are leaving your pet in the house, garage or shed during the day, it is essential that the area is well ventilated and they have access to cool water. Not only is leaving a pet in a car a death trap, but garden sheds and garages also heat up in a matter of minutes.

For further pet information visit [www.petnet.com.au](http://www.petnet.com.au)

*“This message has been authorised by  
Allan Holmes, Chief Executive  
Department for Environment and Heritage”*