

Let's not forget our furry family members. Remember that they need extra care in the hot weather too.

Summer Pet Safety Tips

- **Never Leave Pets in Cars:** Even with windows cracked, a car can become deadly in minutes. Temperatures inside can soar to over 100°F quickly—even on a mild day.
- **Limit Outdoor Time During Peak Heat:** Walk or play with pets early in the morning or after sunset. Hot pavement can burn paws. If it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their feet.
- **Provide Plenty of Fresh Water:** Keep clean, cool water accessible at all times. Pets can dehydrate quickly, especially when panting more to cool off.
- **Offer Shade and Cool Resting Spots:** If pets are outdoors, make sure they have access to full shade or even cooling mats. Indoors, fans and AC are best.
- **Overheating isn't just dangerous for humans. Keep an eye on your furry friends.**

  Watch for:

  - Excessive panting or drooling
  - Weakness or collapse
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - Bright red or pale gums

  - Seek immediate vet help if any of these occur.

- **Avoid Overexertion:** Don't over-exercise pets in the heat, especially breeds prone to breathing issues (like pugs, bulldogs, and Persian cats).

- **Be Wary of Bugs and Toxins:** Fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and lawn chemicals are more active in summer. Use vet-recommended preventives and avoid treated lawns or unfamiliar plants.

- **Let your furry friends share in the summer fun:**
  - Freeze treats in ice cubes (like peanut butter or chicken broth)
  - Set up a kiddie pool or sprinkler for dogs to splash in
  - Try indoor games or puzzle toys when it's too hot outside

Walking pets on hot asphalt can be dangerous—especially for dogs. Here's why it's a serious concern and how to protect their paws:

The Danger of Hot Asphalt

Asphalt temperature rises fast: When it's 85°F outside, asphalt can reach **130–140°F**.

At **125°F**, skin destruction can occur in **just 60 seconds**.

Pets can suffer **burns, blisters, and long-term paw damage** without showing immediate signs.

How to Protect Your Pet's Paws

- **Do the 7-Second Test:** Place the back of your hand on the pavement. If you can't hold it there for 7 seconds, it's too hot for paws.
- **Walk During Cooler Hours:** Go for walks early in the morning or later in the evening when surfaces have cooled.
- **Stick to Grass or Shaded Trails:** Parks, shaded sidewalks, and grassy areas are much safer for paws.
- **Use Protective Paw Gear:** Dog booties or paw wax can help, but introduce them gradually so your dog is comfortable.
- **Moisturize Paws:** Use vet-approved paw balms to keep pads soft and less prone to cracking or burning.
- **Check Paws After Every Walk.** Look for: Redness or darkened pads, Blisters or peeling, limping or licking paws excessively
- If you suspect a burn:
    - Rinse paws with cool (not ice-cold) water
    - Keep your pet off hot surfaces
    - Contact your vet immediately

