

# Warm Weather Policy

Over the past few years, we have seen temperatures reach into the high 40°C. Like humans, dogs, especially our very young pups, are quite susceptible to heat stroke. Precautions must be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our pups, not only in these weather extremes, but also when temperatures are warm.

Most of these warm weather safety precautions are common sense, but please review and share these reminders with family and friends who help care for the pup.

## Warm Weather Precautions

- If it is hot for you, it is hot for the pup.
- Do not walk pups in the middle of the day when temperatures are at an extreme.
  - Pups should be walked around weather extremes, so walked first thing in the morning, or late in the evening once the sun has gone down.
  - Alternatively, pups could be walked in suitable locations such as shops/malls.
  - After each walk, check your pup for cracked, splitting or dried out pads.
- Ensure that Underfootings are a suitable temperature for the pup to stand or walk on, even at night.
  - Asphalt and metal surfaces can retain their heat for a long period after the heat source has ceased.
  - A good rule of thumb is if you cannot leave your palm flat on the ground surface for at least 5 seconds, then it is not suitable for your pup to be on.
  - Be mindful of different Underfootings along your walking route.
- Encourage your pup to drink ample water throughout the day to avoid dehydration.
  - Ensure that fresh water is available to the pup.
  - If leaving the pup outdoors, use more than one water source encase one is tipped over while you are away from the house.
- Ensure that suitable shelter is provided for your pup if left outdoors. In extreme weather conditions, pups should avoid being left outside and instead, remain indoors in a cool, well-ventilated area.
- Under no circumstances should a pup ever be left unattended in a vehicle. Even on a cool day, internal car temperatures can rapidly increase in a short time.
- Ensure that preventative treatments, especially those for Flea and Ticks, are up-to-date. If you live in a high tick area, be extra vigilant and check your pup daily for ticks, especially after Nature walks.
- Ensure that the pup's Sleeping Quarters and Crating location are in well-ventilated areas, out of direct sunlight, and are in areas that will not overheat at different times of the day.
- Please read and adhere to our Water Safety Policy.

## Heat Stroke

Heat Stroke can be a life threatening condition that requires immediate veterinary attention. It may occur when a pup is;

- Left in vehicles.
- Left outdoors in hot/humid conditions, especially without adequate shade.
- Exercised in hot/humid conditions.
- Suffering another medical condition that causes a rise in body temperature.

Signs of Heat Stroke include;

- Panting heavily.
- Drooling.
- Distress.
- Disorientated / unsteady on his feet.
- Gums changing colour to either blue/purple, or bright red.

What to do if you think your pup is suffering Heat Stroke;

- Remove the pup from the environment causing the Heat Stroke.
- Begin to cool the pup by placing moist (NOT cold) towels over the pup's neck, armpits, and groin regions. A cool fan may also assist with the cooling process.
- Seek Veterinary advice.