

# *Caring For Your Dog in Hot and Cold Weather*

*Remember if it is too hot for you to be outside it is too hot for your dog to be outside.*

## *Caring For Your Dog in Hot Weather*

- Provide fresh water for your dog at all times. Change it at least once a day. Ceramic bowls are best because the water does not heat up as much as in metal or plastic bowls.
- A child's clam shell, filled up with water will allow your dog to take a dip.
- Ensure your dog has a cool place to lie. Remember that the sun's position changes during the day. Concrete can be hot on the paws. The best place for a dog to lie is in the house.
- Limit exercise in hot weather.
- Do not leave your dog in a poorly ventilated area such as a crate and definitely not in a car.
- Protect your dog from sunburn with sunscreen. White haired and pink skinned dogs are susceptible. Noses and earflaps are where dogs are likely to get burnt. Sunburn as in humans may cause cancers in later life.
- Fleas, ticks and heartworm are active during the hot months so be vigilant and maintain parasite control.
- Stings and bites are more likely in the hot months. Be particularly mindful of snakes, and cane toads
- Your dog may benefit from wearing a cooling coat or lying on a cooling mat in hot weather

*Monitor your dog for heatstroke. Old and young dogs are most susceptible.*

Symptoms include anxiety; excessive panting; nose, legs and ears are hot to touch; mouth and tongue are purple. Cover dog with a cooled blanket in the path of a fan. Seek urgent veterinary attention if your dog displays symptoms.

*Remember if it is too cold for you to be outside it is too cold for your dog to be outside.*

In Queensland we are not used to extremes of cold weather, However on the occasions it does get cold we need to take special care of our dogs as they may have limited tolerance for the cold.

#### *Caring For Your Dog in Cold Weather*

- Provide fresh water at all times. Dogs and humans can dehydrate in cold weather especially if it is windy.
- Provide warm shelter for your dog with an adequate number of blankets. They may not like the blankets over them but may be happy to lie on them.
- Young, overweight, sick or old dogs are most susceptible.
- Shorthaired dogs feel the cold.
- Dogs that work or run a lot may need more food in cold weather.
- Some dogs may benefit by wearing a warm coat.
- Your old dog may have more pain from arthritis and be less mobile in winter. Consult your vet for advice if you have an old dog.
- **Protect your dog from heaters. It may be necessary to cordon off the heater. Don't forget the young puppy who may chew through a cable.**

*Monitor your dog for hypothermia.*

Symptoms include shivering, cold to touch, lethargic, dropped heart and respiratory rate. Warm the dog up with a hair dryer set on a low heat and seek urgent veterinary advice.

For more information on caring for dogs in hot and cold weather go to  
<http://www.infovets.com/free/canine/default.asp?page=A/A326.htm>  
[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2296302\\_care-pets-hot-weather.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2296302_care-pets-hot-weather.html)

