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KEEP PETS SAFE WHEN HOT WEATHER HITS

Seattle Humane Society Offers Tips for Pet Guardians

With temperatures expected to climb this weekend, the Seattle Humane Society urges pet owners to keep pets protected from the heat.

“Dogs and cats do not sweat through their skin,” states Brenda Barnette, CEO for the Seattle Humane Society. “They cool themselves by rapid breathing, and when the temperature outside is hot and close to their internal body temperature, it means animals must work hard to stay cool. So when it’s hot for you, it’s even hotter for them!”

Even in Seattle, the interior of a car can hit 160 degrees in less than five minutes—parking in the shade with the windows cracked can still be dangerous. It is surprising how rapidly heat stroke can develop in a pet left alone for even the briefest period of time. It is not uncommon for an owner to get distracted and leave a pet longer than imagined. Heat stroke can lead to severe problems like organ failure and even death. Pets with shorter noses, like Persian cats and bulldogs, are more susceptible to heatstroke than breeds with longer noses as there is less area for heat to evaporate.

Signs of heat stroke in a pet include heavy panting, agitation, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, staggering, vomiting and a deep red or purple tongue. If a pet becomes overheated, place him in a cool place and apply cool (not cold) water all over his body. Apply ice packs or cold towels only to the head, neck and chest. Let him drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes and take him immediately to a veterinarian. Don’t wait and see how your pet does, just go.

The Seattle Humane Society was founded in 1897 to bring people and pets together. The Seattle Humane Society does this today through its low-fee spay/neuter surgery program, pet workshops and training, pet food bank, humane teen club, visiting pets program and more. The Seattle Humane Society is located in Bellevue, at 13212 SE Eastgate Way. For directions and more information, visit www.seattlehumane.org or call (425) 641-0080.

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