

## Hot Weather And Your Pets

Well that time of year is on us again. With all the animal events I go to each summer I have become an expert at keeping them cool. There are a lot of products available if you travel with your pet, battery powered fans with thermostats, cool vests and pads, no tip water bowls, and window vents.

Let's remember the basics:

- Do not leave your dog in the car! It becomes deadly in minutes (even with the windows down)!
- Always carry at least a gallon of water for each dog! (I carry a Five Gallon container when I travel.)
- Exercise or walk your dog in the cool of the morning or evening. (Carry a water bottle)
- Avoid hot asphalt (Burns the paws)
- If you go to the beach do not forget water fresh water for your dog and a spot of shade to rest in.
- When you leave your dogs at home make sure they have access to lots of cool fresh water as well as a cool shady place to rest during the heat of the day (dog house, shaded area).
- Brachycephalic Dogs (examples would be: Bull dogs, pugs, Boston Terriers) or the old, infirm, or overweight dogs should be kept in an air-conditioned room if possible or in the coolest room of the house with a fan and plenty of cool fresh water.

Signs of Heat Exhaustion:

- Excessive panting
- Gums will be a deep red
- Eyes may look blood shot
- Dog may look distressed or agitated
- Dog may be lagging behind (when walking or running with you)

If you suspect that your dog is suffering from Heat Exhaustion

Cool the dog by wetting with cool water (place dog on wet blankets or towels and place a fan by the dog) (Pour water over the inner thighs and pads of the feet)

Do not use ice packs because cooling the dog too suddenly can cause heart failure.

**Seek Veterinary care immediately!**