

Signs of Heatstroke in Your Dog

During warm weather it's important to keep your dog cool to prevent heatstroke.

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Dogs are much more susceptible to heat than we are. Every year, many dogs become ill or even die as a result of overheating. To prevent heatstroke during warm weather, never leave your dog in a car, exercise him during the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler, and provide plenty of fresh water. If your dog is outside during the day, be sure the doghouse or other shelter is comfortably cool during the hottest part of the day.

Signs of heatstroke include: Anxious expression Collapse High fever (104° F or higher) Loud panting Rapid breathing Rapid heartbeat Refusal to obey commands Staggering Staring Vomiting Warm, dry skin

If you suspect heatstroke, call the closest emergency veterinarian to let the staff know you are on the way. Immediately lower your dog's body temperature by getting him to a cool, ventilated location and applying towels or sponges soaked in cool water to his body or by dousing him with a hose and then wrapping him in a cool, damp blanket. Offer him a small amount of water, but don't force him to drink because he may choke.

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