



WAGGS TO RICHES

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HEAT STROKE IN DOGS

Heat stroke in dogs can be life threatening and is caused by extremely high body temperature of 105 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Abnormally high body temperature occurs when animals don't have the ability to give off body heat due to high heat and humidity. Dogs do not sweat like humans do. They normally sweat only thru their paw pads. Panting does allow for the evaporation of water from their respiratory tract and is an effective method of dissipating heat.

What to Watch For: Noisy breathing that may indicate upper airway obstruction, excessive panting, bright red mucous membranes (gums or eyes), weakness, collapse, coma, pinpoint hemorrhages on the gums and/or skin.

Treatment: Place a cool, wet towel over your dog or place him in a cool water bath. Do not use ice because it may cause skin injury. Call your Vet.

If your dog's temperature, taken rectally, is less than **105 F** (Normal is **99.5 to 102.5 F**) the pet may only require rest, a fan to increase air circulation, fresh water to drink and careful observation. If their temperature is **105 to 107 F** the animal should be hospitalized on intravenous fluids and other medications. If their temperature is markedly increased, greater than **107 F**, it must be treated more aggressively. Cooling can be promoted externally by immersion in cool water, or internally by administering a cool water enema. At temperatures greater than **109 Fahrenheit**, failure of their vital organs and consequently death can occur.

There are several things you can do to prevent heat related problems for your dog. Monitor outdoor temperature. Limit sun exposure. Light colored dogs can get sunburned too. Walk or exercise your dog in the morning or evening. Keep your dog in a comfortable environment (air-conditioned room or partially open windows with a breeze) during extremely hot weather. **NEVER** leave your dog in a car (even with the windows partially rolled down) for any reason at any time. Leaving dogs in a car during warm weather is the most common cause of heat stroke. Provide your dog with plenty of fresh water and plenty of shade. Take extra care with puppies, pets with medical problems, obese pets and senior pets.

Treat your animal the same way you would treat yourself. If it is too hot to sit in a car that has been turned off or if it is too hot to sit outside in the sun with no water or shade then consider that it is too hot for your pet too.