



St. Bernard Parish Animal Services

The Dog Days of Summer – Man It’s Hot!

It’s here guys; the hottest time of the year and the heat makes any outdoor activity nearly impossible for us as well as our pets. As the heat index soars into 90-degrees and above precautions need to be taken to ensure the well-being of our furry friends.

Dogs do not sweat (except for a minimal amount through their paw pads) so they do not tolerate high temperatures as well as humans. Not even the big guys that stay in the yard all the time, these temps are grueling on them as well! Dogs depend on panting to exchange warm air for cool air. So when the temperature outside is close to a dogs normal body temperature, cooling by panting is not an effective process and your little guy can’t cool down. Every summer we hear devastating stories of pets that become very sick or die from heat stroke. One of the most common situations that lead to heat stroke is pets being left in parked cars. Even on an 80-degree day; which for us living in lower Louisiana you would think to be relatively pleasant, within 20 minutes the temperature inside a parked car can reach 109 degrees. And don’t think that cracking the windows makes a difference, it doesn’t.

Other situations that put our pets at risk for heat stroke are exercising too strenuously in hot weather, being fenced in or kenneled on concrete or asphalt surfaces, or not having proper shade and fresh water provided for them in the yard.

Symptoms of overheating in pets include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, weakness, stupor and collapse. If you suspect that your pet is experiencing heat stroke seek veterinarian assistance immediately.

The St Bernard Parish Animal Services want the best for you and your pet so take care of each other during the last of these Dog Days of Summer. Visit the Shelter to see all of the adoptable animals at 5455 E. Judge Perez Drive in Violet or call (504) 278-1534.

Charlotte Luna
Shelter Manager