

## HOT WEATHER INFORMATION SHEET

With the warm weather upon us, it is important to plan ahead and take extra precautions to keep our dogs safe from the heat. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the hot days ahead!

- If your dog is spending the day outside, ensure they have adequate shade and (as always) LOTS of fresh drinking water. Small kennels often lack airflow and can get very hot, so do not rely on these as your dog's only source of shade. Consider buying a small paddling pool for your dog to cool off in too.
- For many modern breeds/mixes with long, thick coats such as Poodles, Cavaliers, Spaniels, Lagottos, Bichons, Malteses and mixes of each breed, the coat is more fashion than functional! Rather than providing insulation, their long coats trap body heat, and as a result we highly recommend keeping them clipped short. If you are unsure whether your breed of dog will be cooler with the coat on or off, please call us to have a chat.
- When exercising your dog, avoid hot roads and pavement, as this will burn the pads of their feet. If it's too hot for your bare feet, it is too hot for theirs too! The way you feel is a good guide of the way your dog is feeling - if you need to stop to drink, so does your dog. If you're hot, your dog probably is too! Pour water on their chest, neck, underarms, paw pads and the belly as cooling these areas is the most efficient way to lower a dog's body temperature.
- If you have a 'flat faced' breed, such as a Pug or Bulldog, they should only be exercised during cooler times of day, and should NOT be left out in hot weather. Dogs cool themselves by panting, but due to their short faces these breeds are relatively inefficient at panting to cool down. The increased effort to cool themselves can inflame airways and lead to further breathing difficulties.
- Freeze vegetable or meat juices with a few biscuits in an ice cream container, then leave the ice block in the shade for your dog to lick through the day. They'll love the taste and it will keep them cool too!
- If your dog wears a muzzle, be careful only to fit muzzles that allow them to pant. Much of a dog's ability to cool themselves comes from panting, so muzzles that limit this could have serious consequences on the dog's health.
- Never leave your dog in a closed car!!! Despite warnings each summer, dogs still tragically die every year at the hand of owners who leave the car 'just for a quick five minutes' in the heat. Temperatures inside a closed car build up dangerously fast, even in cool weather.
- Most importantly: KNOW YOUR DOG'S LIMITATIONS! If you have a puppy, an older dog, an obese dog or a 'flat faced' dog, they will be less tolerant to the heat than others. Go for shorter walks with your dog during the coolest times of day, avoid leaving them alone outside in the heat, and be extra vigilant on keeping them hydrated and happy.

Doghouse Daycare and Grooming is an indoor, air-conditioned and fully supervised care facility, and so is a safe place to leave your furry best friends on hot days. During the warmer months your dog will have access to paddling pools to cool off after play, and there is always fresh drinking water available.

Our groomers are available from Monday to Friday, and can prepare your dog's coat for summer. Every full groom comes with a free 8 hours of care, so your dog will go home feeling fresh and light, and be worn out from play as well!

For inquiries and bookings, please contact us via phone or email on:  
(08) 8293 6791 or [dogsplay@doghousedaycare.com.au](mailto:dogsplay@doghousedaycare.com.au)

Alternatively, visit our website [www.doghousedaycare.com.au](http://www.doghousedaycare.com.au) for more information.

