

Heatstroke in Dogs

What to do if your dog has heatstroke

What is heatstroke?

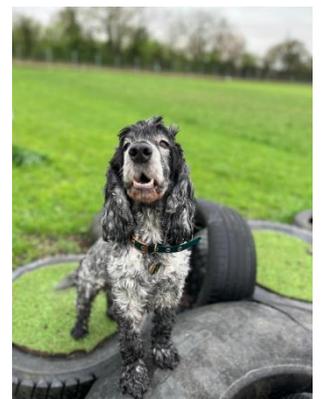
- Animals are unable to cool down by sweating as humans do, so they are less able to regulate their body temperature.
- Heatstroke is a life-threatening condition where the body temperature increases to a point where serious consequences, including organ failure and even death, can occur.
- Young, old, overweight and dogs with certain health conditions are at increased risk. No dog is immune from the risk of heatstroke.
- It doesn't always have to be 'hot' for an animal to develop heatstroke. Exercising excessively in warm weather, or being left in a warm or humid environment that is poorly ventilated can cause animals to quickly overheat.

Signs of heatstroke - include, but are not limited to:

- Increased body temperature
- Increased heart rate
- Lethargy, collapse, seizure
- Weakness or lack of co-ordination
- Panting
- Excessive drooling/frothing
- Struggling for breath
- Red and/or tacky gums

What to do if your dog has heatstroke

- You need to cool the dog down as quickly possible.
- Remove from the car or conservatory. Move into the shade.
- Offer them a drink of cool water
- Wet a towel and have the dog lie on it with cool air flowing over them (e.g. from a household fan)
- Once you have sufficiently cooled your dog down you will need to take them to the vet.





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