

Tips to prepare for extreme heat:

- If possible, bring outdoor animals inside a climate-controlled room for some reprieve from the heat. If that is not possible, ensure that each animal has adequate shade and plenty of fresh water to keep themselves hydrated and cool. (*Brachycephalic breeds with short muzzles such as pugs or Persian cats cannot pant as effectively as other animals, leading to decreased capacity for temperature regulation. These breeds along with older, overweight, or ill animals should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.*)
- Add small amounts of ice to water bowls periodically throughout the day to help keep the water cool. Also, consider whipping up a batch of home-made safe fruit or peanut butter pupsicles for the animals to enjoy.
- Limit outdoor exercise/enrichment times to early mornings or evenings when the temperatures are lower. Keep walks short and adjust intensity and duration in accordance with the temperature.
- Walk animals on grassy areas versus asphalt, as asphalt can become very hot and can damage or burn paws.
- Familiarize staff and volunteers with the signs and symptoms of heat stroke – heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, difficult breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, or unconsciousness. Contact a veterinarian immediately if an animal exhibits any of these symptoms.
- Consider cooling body wraps, vests, or mats to use for animals kept outdoors. Simply soak them in cold water.
- As part of enrichment, consider procuring large plastic pools to fill with cool water for some of the animals who enjoy cooling soaks. Remember to discard the water at the end of the day as water can also heat up from the severe temperatures and become too warm for the animals to use repeatedly.
- Prepare for likely power outages. Follow the [tip sheet on power outages](#) to learn more.



°C		°F		Dog Size (Small, Medium, Large)			Warning Icon
15°	60°	1	1	1	① No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!		
18°	65°	1	1	2	② Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!		
21°	70°	2	2	3	③ Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.		
23°	75°	3	3	3	④ Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.		
26°	80°	3	3	4	⑤ Potentially life-threatening heat. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.		
29°	85°	4	4	5			
32°	90°	5	5	5	-! if obese		
35°	95°	5	5	5	-! if brachycephalic breed		
37°	100°	5	5	5	-! if less than 6 months old or elderly		
40°	105°	5	5	5	-! if area is shaded from sun		
43°	110°	5	5	5	-! if water is available		

Source: adapted from The UK Animal Care and Care (ACC) Petplan