



The **SPCA of Texas** urges pet owners to keep the following in mind during the hot summer months to protect their animal friends:

- Walk dogs early in the morning or in the evening hours instead of in the middle of the day when it's hottest. Overweight and older pets are more likely to overheat during hot weather, so it is important to keep them fit and trim.
- Some pet owners prefer to leave their animal friends outside. If that is the case, your pet must always have shelter available to protect it from extreme temperatures and inclement weather. Also, consider providing a wading pool filled with water for your companion to cool off in during the hot days of summer.
- Consider installing a doggie door. Dogs can visit the potty area outside and access the air-conditioned house during the day.
- Provide your pet with fresh, cool water every day in a tip-proof bowl. Remember that metal bowls left in the sun can get hot, so always put water bowls in the shade. Don't forget the ice!
- Allow water hoses to run for several seconds or minutes--until water cools--before spraying your dog or filling his water bowl.
- Keep your pet well groomed, but resist the temptation to shave off all of his hair in an effort to keep him cool. A pet's coat can protect him from sunburn and acts as cooling insulation.
- Don't let your dog ride in the back of an open vehicle unless he can be safely tethered to the center where he is unable to reach the sides and can stand or sit on a slip proof, cool surface. Truck beds and metal surfaces get extremely hot in the summer and can burn paw pads.
- *Never* leave your pet in a parked car, even with the windows cracked. It takes only minutes for a dog or cat to suffer a heat stroke. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a locked car can reach 120 degrees in under ten minutes. Should you see a pet left alone in a parked car, please call 911.