

City of PALM COAST *Animal Control*

160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164
386-986-2520



Keep Your Pet Safe in the **Heat & Cold**



Palm Coast's climate is classified as humid subtropical. We have hot and humid conditions from May thru September. December thru February we can have cool temperatures and occasionally cold snaps and freezes. During these times of hot humid conditions and cool/freezing snaps your pets can be in danger.

- * **NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR** Not even with the air conditioning on. During warm weather the temperature inside your car can reach 120 degrees in minutes. Pets left in hot cars for a brief time can suffer from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, organ damage or even die. Dogs and cats don't sweat like humans, they let off heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. Remember that humidity can affect your pet as well. If the humidity is too high they cannot cool themselves and their temperature spikes to dangerous levels quickly. This is considered Animal Cruelty under the State Statutes.
- * **PROVIDE SHADE AND WATER** Make sure that your pet has plenty of fresh, cool water and has protection from the heat and sun. Shade from a tree or shade from a tarp are best, as they do not obstruct the flow of air. A closed in space does not provide relief from the heat.
- * **WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE** Heatstroke is a serious condition and can quickly result in death. Signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, and unconsciousness. Animals that are at a greater risk for heatstroke are the very old, the very young, overweight and those that have heart or respiratory diseases. Some breeds of dogs have a greater risk as well. Animals with short muzzles- boxers, pugs, shih tzus, cats- will have a harder time breathing in extreme heat.
- * **COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS** Palm Coast occasionally has significant cold snaps and sometimes freezes. During these times, most dogs and cats are safer indoors. No matter what the temperature is, wind-chill can affect your pet. Your pets' cold tolerance can vary from pet to pet based on their coat, body fat stores, activity level and health. Pets with diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease may have a harder time regulating their body temperature. The same goes for the very young and very old pets.
- * **STAY HOME** Hot cars are known threats to pets, but cold cars also pose significant risks to your pet's health. In cold weather, your car is like a refrigerator, and can chill your pet quickly. Pets that are young, old, ill or thin are very susceptible to cold environments and should not be left in cold cars.

