

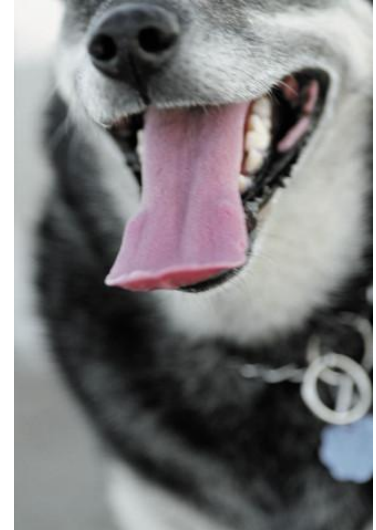
# Heatstroke in Dogs

**Dogs can very rapidly succumb to the effects of overheating (hyperthermia)**

Dogs can quickly become too hot and reach a point of where they are unable to cool themselves down and their body temperature becomes too high..

In dogs heatstroke is not just caused by overexposure to sunlight (sunstroke) but more commonly by exercising or exposure to hot and humid environments. As dogs can only lose heat by panting they can struggle to keep their body temperature at a safe level in hot conditions.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency, it can be fatal and it can also cause damage to internal organs.



**Your dog will need appropriate first aid to bring the body temperature down and you should seek immediate veterinary attention.**

Spot the signs:

- A raised body temperature,
- heavy and rapid panting,
- laboured breathing,
- weakness,
- wide eyes,
- bright red tongue,
- rapid pulse,
- disorientation,
- exhaustion,
- diarrhoea &/or vomiting,
- distress.



A dog can also collapse and go into a coma.

## First Aid:



It is important to cool the dog down quickly and safely – cold wet towels, gentle hosing and providing cold water to drink can all help. If your dog is showing severe signs prompt veterinary attention is needed.

When travelling to the vets with an overheated dog, soak towels in cold water and lay or sit your dog on a cold towel. Cool the vehicle down first before you get in it. Allow plenty of air to circulate inside the vehicle on the way to the vets - this aids evaporation. Take cold water with you for your dog to drink.

