

SAVE LIVES IN THE HEAT

With scorching heatwaves continuing to sweep across Australia, please be mindful of animals in the extreme heat. Heat stress is painful and frightening for animals, and it can be fatal.



photo: Ian Moody

Wildlife

- ✓ Place bowls of water in your garden and public parks in locations protected from predators such as cats or dogs. Put sticks or rocks in the bowl to help insects climb out.
- ✗ Don't use metal or steel bowls as they heat up.
- ✓ Hang a water dispenser from a tree or place a bowl in a hanging basket.
- ✓ Use the garden hose to spray water into trees and shrubs.
- ⚠ Signs of heat stress: Possums curled up on the ground. Birds with beaks open and panting. Rapid breathing and licking paws in animals like possums & roos.
- ✓ On hot days put some fruit out like watermelon or frozen grapes for birds as finding food in the hot weather can exhaust small animals.
- ⚠ If you discover heat stressed wildlife, place them in a well ventilated cardboard box and take them to a vet or phone Wildlife Victoria on **(03) 8400 7300** or visit fauna.org.au for other states.

Companion Animals

- ✓ Bring animals inside on hot days.
- ✓ Place ice cubes in water bowls to keep them cool.
- ✗ Don't walk dogs in the heat of the day. Place your hand on the pavement for five seconds – if it is too hot for your hand, it is too hot for paws.
- ✓ Carry bottles of water and containers in your car in case you find animals in need.
- ✓ Cool down overheated animals with cool damp towels and ice packs.
- ✗ Do not give your cats and dogs access to areas where they could prey on wildlife.
- ⚠ If you see an animal locked in a car on a hot day, call the police. If the animal is distressed then don't hesitate to do the right thing. Dogs can die within minutes from heat stress if left in a car.
- ⚠ If you notice signs of heat stress, such as excessive panting, lethargy, dark red or pale gums, contact a vet.

alv.org.au/heat

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