

Pet Sitters International Offers Tips for Keeping Pets Cool

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The organization presents ways dog and cat owners can keep their pets safe during summer heat waves.

As temperatures continue to climb in parts of the Midwest and southern United States, Pet Sitters International offers measures dog and cat owners can practice to protect their pets from the heat. "Pet owners are often caught off guard when the weather stays hot for extended periods of time," says Ellen Price, PSI academic manager. "People just want relief from the heat and, while they mean well, they don't often consider what can happen if they aren't paying close attention to their animal's care."

Price offers the following advice for dog and cat owners: Be aware of open windows and fire escapes. Though leaving windows open may create better ventilation and cross-breezes, Price cautions pet owners to secure window screens and safety bars to ensure that pets do not fall out of windows or off of fire escapes. If you allow your pets to go outdoors, know their whereabouts. Companion animal theft increases during warm weather, Price says. Watch pets around swimming pools. Every year, pets accidentally drown when left unattended around swimming pools, Price says. She recommends keeping pool fences securely locked when not in use, and preventing pets from accessing unenclosed pools. Learn how to prevent and treat heatstroke in pets. For more information on how to do so, pet owners can visit the Pet Sitters International website.