

5 SIGNS YOUR DOG IS SUFFERING FROM HEATSTROKE

KNOW THE SIGNS!

Heatstroke can be extremely dangerous, even deadly.

There are five signs you must never ignore that indicate your pup is in heat-related distress:

1. RAPID PANTING

Dogs pant to regulate their body temperature and stay cool. Some amount of panting is normal and healthy. However, when panting isn't enough, their body temperature can quickly rise to dangerous levels. The minute you notice panting, get your dog out of the heat, to a cool or shady area, with access to plenty of fresh water.

2. COLOUR CHANGES IN THE TONGUE AND/OR GUMS.

Checking the colour of his tongue and gums is a good proactive measure to keep your dog's body temperature cool. The tongue and gums can become darker red in colour as body temperature rises. A more pale than normal colour in the gums can also be a sign of heatstroke, as it can indicate oxygen deficiency. If you notice this, head indoors or for the shade and allow your dog plenty of cool water. If you think oxygen depletion is occurring, call your vet or get to an emergency vet department immediately.

3. DEPRESSION/LETHARGY

If your dog is lethargic, not getting up, or off balance, these can all be very serious signs of heatstroke that should never be ignored. This behaviour can be the result of internal organ damage brought on by excessive heat.

**HOW TO TREAT
(AND POSSIBLY SAVE!)
OVERHEATED DOG**

Watch your pooch for signs of overheating during the hot weather.

- 1 Move your pet to a cooler area immediately, preferably with a fan.
- 2 Take your pet's temperature using a rectal thermometer.
- 3 Put cool, wet towels on
 - neck,
 - armpits
 - between legs
 - wet ear flaps and paw pads
- 4 Give your dog fresh cool drinking water.
- 5 Transport your pet to your vet right away!

4. VOMITING/DIARRHEA

These symptoms can be a result of dehydration and/or internal distress brought on by heat. If your dog is having diarrhea or vomiting as a result of heat, offer her fresh water and call your vet immediately.

5. UNRESPONSIVENESS/COMA

Coma is a depressed level of consciousness. He may initially act confused, and not obey commands. Stupor can progress to a total loss of consciousness. If your dog is not responding and cannot be awakened, call your vet and get him to a care centre immediately!

Remember, dogs can not tell us they are in distress. Our dogs can not tell us they are too hot or don't feel well. By the time they are showing outward signs of

distress, the situation can already be extremely serious.