SUMMER WEATHER TIPS

Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC)

Summer Heat and Animals
Summer is a great time to spend with our furry friends but we need to make sure that they are safe. Too much heat is dangerous. Here are some tips from your friends at DACC:

1. **Keep pets cool by keeping them indoors or in well-shaded areas outdoors**
   - Pets need protection from direct sunlight. A shaded area outdoors can provide an environment that is 10°F less compared to being under direct sunlight. They also need good airflow to help them regulate their body heat. It is best to keep them in an area where the temperature and humidity can be controlled.

2. **Provide plenty of fresh, clean water at all times**
   - Water is the easiest way to help our pets cool down. They need the moisture in their body to cool themselves when they pant. Adding ice can help them cool faster.

3. **Limit exercise**
   - Take extra care when exercising your pet. Limit exercise to early morning and evening hours. Always carry water for your pet and pay attention to how well they are doing with the activity. Don’t let your dogs walk on hot asphalt, concrete or artificial turf. If the surface is too hot for you to walk on bare foot, it is too hot for them.

4. **Never, ever leave your pet in your parked car**
   - Cars are like ovens and they heat up real fast, even with windows slightly open. An outside temp of 70°F can easily rise to 90°F or an outside temp of 85°F rises to 102°F within mins.

5. **Trim, do not shave off body fur**
   - Layers of fur on our pet’s body can protect them from overheating and sunburn. Trimming layers or brushing regularly gets rid of the “winter coat” that some breeds grow for the cold months.

6. **At Risk Pets**
   - Animals with flat faces such as Pugs, Bulldogs, Boxers and Persian cats are more susceptible to heat. So are the elderly, overweight pets, and pets with heart or lung conditions. These pets need to be kept in air conditioned rooms as much as possible.

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**Providing Proper Shelter:**
Anyone who fails to provide proper shelter or protection from the weather for their animal is guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony and may be fined up to $20,000 or imprisoned.
[CA Penal Code §597(b)]

**Signs of Heat Stress**
- Excessive panting
- Increased/Difficulty breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Drooling
- Mild weakness
- Collapse

**What To Do?**
- Move your pet immediately to a shaded, well-ventilated area
- Apply icepacks or cold towels to footpads, abdomen and between their thighs where there is less fur
- Offer small amounts of water to drink or some ice to lick. Make sure they are swallowing.
- Take them directly to a