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BEST WAYS TO MAKE YOUR PET FEEL HAPPY THIS SUMMER

With the rising temperatures, it is critical to keep your four-legged friend's safety in mind, and take some precautions to keep him happy comfortable, and to avoid heatstroke this summer.

Here are the most important things you need to check/do for your pet.

1. Follow your pet's lead:

The number one sign that a dog's temperature is getting high is fatigue. If you find your pet looking out for a shady spot to lie down, then he is certainly too hot. You should carry him back to a cooler location and check his body right away.

2. If the temperature is too warm for you, it's too warm for your pet:

If you can't sit out for a long time outside, because of the heat, then it's too hot for your pet as well. Don't force your pet to be outdoors for extended periods in the warm weather. Pets get too hot in temperatures as low as 80 degrees.

3. Change your walking time:

Of course, exercise is important for our pets, but in the summer walks are best taken in the early hours of the morning, or after sunset.

4. Groom with care:

Grooming sessions are important for our pets to keep them clean and healthy. But remember, the hair on their body helps them to regulate their body temperature so never shave your pet or cut its hair too short, even in the summertime.

5. Offer them some ice:

Humans indulge on ice cream and other cool treats during the summer and pets enjoy cool treats too. Put some ice cubes in your pet's water dish or offer her an ice cube as a treat on a hot day.

6. Opt for pet-friendly insect repellents:

If you're headed outside and want to protect yourself and your pet from insects, it's best to use those that don't contain chemicals that will be harmful to your pet. Talk to your vet about what to avoid, and consider using botanical oils and other natural substances to ward off rid of horseflies, mosquitoes, and other insects that are common during the summer.

7. Don't go for walks in extreme temps:

Your pet isn't going to enjoy a walk if it is too hot, too wet, or too cold outside. Consider the temperatures and conditions and either skip your daily walk, shorten it, or take it at a different time of day when the temperature and conditions are more comfortable for a walk.

8. Never leave your dog in a parked car:

Parked cars are the worst culprits for causing heatstroke in pets. The temperature inside of a car or RV will quickly rise to as much as two times higher than the outside temperature, even with a window open or in the shade. Never leave your pet unattended for any length of time in a vehicle in which the temperature can't be controlled and monitored.

9. Allow water playtime:

It can be fun and beneficial for your dog to set up a baby pool in which she can cool off, or to allow her to cool herself off in the sprinklers on a hot day. Where it is safe to do so you can also let your pet cool off in a stream or pond. Use good judgment here; of course and never allow your pet to get into swiftly moving water or stagnant/standing water where she could contract a water-borne illness such as giardia.

10. Cool the tummy:

When your pet is hot you will notice he seeks out cool surfaces to lay one. That's because keeping his tummy cool makes his entire body cooler. If your pet is too hot, allow him access to a cool surface to rest or even place a cool towel on his tummy to help him cool off. Of course, the best way to care for your pet is to never let him get overheated in the first place.

Follow these tips and keep your pet comfortable, safe and cool all summer long.

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- Follow your pets lead
- Change the walking time
- Don't get fooled by the temperature
- No haircuts
- Feed with Ice
- Opt for pet-friendly insect repellents
- Give your dog a chance to check
- Never leave your dog in a parked car
- Give them a bath
- Cool the tummy with Ice