

HEAT STROKE

During summer, we all enjoy a warm and sunny day. However, without noticing it, we can sometimes expose our small animals to conditions that are too extreme and can lead to them having what is called a heat stroke.

Such a heat stroke can occur when we leave our little friend in the car, or in a sunny garden. Our animals do not have as many sweat glands as we have, enabling us to sweat and thus get rid of extra heat. They have some sweat glands in their foot pads (yes, they have sweaty feet!!!) but they mainly sweat by panting.

It is also important to know that some animals are more sensitive, for example older, obese or those animals suffering from heart conditions. Brachycephalic breeds which have flatter noses (such as Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Persians and Himalayans) are more fragile since their respiratory system is less unobstructed.

Symptoms of heat stroke are the following: breathing becomes more rapid as does the pulse, gums become redder and dryer. Our animal can become dehydrated, begin to vomit and have diarrhea. If no treatment is given, the animal can even go in shock and fall in a coma.

It is therefore very important to prevent this situation. Remember not to leave your companion in a confined, very hot and poorly ventilated vehicle or area. It is important to always provide your pet with shade and fresh water in abundance. On a very hot day, your pet is better at home than in your closed vehicle, waiting for you to finish shopping! If your dog or cat stays outside, make sure it can always come in or take shelter from the sun and have

access to drinking water. Also during those hot summer days, do not subject your pet to intense physical exercise or excessive stress.

The staff of LaSalle Veterinary Clinic wish you all a great summer!