



Franklin Farm
VETERINARY CLINIC

HOURS
Monday - Friday: 7:30am-6:30pm
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: Closed

June 2024 Newsletter

Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friends. That's Franklin Farm.

Heat Stroke in Cats and Dogs

By Wanda Hudgins, LVT, CVPM

What is Heat Stroke:

Heat stroke is a form of non-fever hyperthermia that occurs when heat-dissipating mechanisms of the body cannot accommodate excessive external heat. Heat stroke is typically associated with rectal temperatures of 103 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, without signs of inflammation. Any hot environment can cause heat stroke, including leaving a pet in a hot car, lack of access to drinking water, over exertion, and lack of shade. Excessive stress and anxiety can also cause hyperthermia.

Signs of Heat Stroke:

Excessive panting and signs of discomfort indicate overheating in cats and dogs. Cats only pant or sweat through their foot pads in order to get rid of excess heat. Dogs eliminate heat by panting; they do have some sweat glands in the footpads, which help with heat dissipation, but only minimally. A cat or dog overheating may also be unable or unwilling to move around.

Other signs of heat stroke include drooling, reddened gums, vomiting, diarrhea, mental dullness, restlessness, uncoordinated movement, loss of consciousness and collapse. Your cat may excessively groom itself in an effort to cool off. When panting isn't enough, the body temperature rises. Swelling of the brain, shock, kidney failure and serious organ failure, intestinal bleeding and abnormal clotting can occur, and it can be fatal if not corrected quickly.

Some pets are more prone to developing heat exhaustion, especially pets who are older, overweight or brachycephalic (shortened snouts like Pugs and Bulldogs, or Persians). Pets with thick fur, or those suffering from medical conditions such as laryngeal paralysis and obesity are predisposed to heatstroke. Even the active working dogs should be closely monitored for signs of heat stroke, especially on hot days.

Preventing Heat Stroke:

It is important to be aware of the ambient temperature and take appropriate preventative measures. Appropriate preventative measures include providing shade or a cool environment (sport umbrella), stopping strenuous activity early enough to prevent heat stroke, and providing plenty of drinking water for your pet (bring a bowl and cool bottled water). Recognize if your pet is excessively stressed or anxious and remove the cause or change the environment for your pet.



Treating Heat Stroke:

The key to successful treatment includes rapid recognition and protocols aimed at rapid cooling and support of the affected body systems.

- Remove the pet from the heat. If possible, move the pet indoors to an air-conditioned area.
- Contact us immediately, or, if after normal business hours, please contact an emergency veterinarian. You will be given instructions over the phone based on your pet's symptoms and how far away you are from the hospital. On the way to the veterinary hospital, travel with the air conditioner on in your vehicle.
- Allow the pet to drink cool water.
- Cool the pet with towels saturated with cool water (not ice cold as it could shock the body).
- Place rubbing alcohol on the pads of the dog's paws for a cooling effect.
- Do not cover or confine the pet.

Once at the veterinary hospital, treatment will mostly consist of lowering the core temperature to normal, replacing lost fluids and minerals, electrocardiogram, and blood work to check organ function. The veterinarian will be checking signs of secondary conditions including kidney failure, development of neurologic symptoms, abnormal clotting, changes in blood pressure, heart function, and electrolyte abnormalities.

Prognosis:

The effects of heat stroke can last up to 48-72 hours longer, even if your pet appears normal.

Again, the key to successful treatment and outcome includes rapid recognition and protocols aimed at rapid cooling and support of the affected body systems. Each patient is different. Please work closely with your veterinarian and veterinary team, and follow the instructions given to facilitate a healthy and full recovery.

Recognize and take preventative measures for heat stroke to create an enjoyable summer for you and your furry friend.





PetDesk is Here!

We have a new interactive communication tool for your pet's health called PetDesk. It is a mobile app where you will receive reminders for your pet's health care, access your pet's vaccine information and appointment history, access to refill history and has informative pet related articles. You can utilize the app for 24/7 online booking, request prescription refills, receive lab work results and you can receive text updates from our hospital staff.

Download the app now!



Dogs Corner



Dog Fact: The Barbet is a French Water dog and one of the best swimming dogs. They love the water, are athletic and love swimming most of all. This breed also does not shed. They can locate, flush and retrieve birds and are keen hunters. They are very intelligent, have a calm nature and are easy to live with as long as their exercise needs are met. The Barbet is a joyful, smart, loving and devoted breed.

Cats Corner



Cat Fact: The Highlander is a curly-eared cat with a stubby tail. They are social and affectionate and love the water. They can be totally submerged as they hunt and play in the water. The Highlander is intelligent and energetic and does well with families. Their physical traits resemble that of a wildcat. This breed is also unique in that it is polydactyl, so it has extra toes. This breed is social, loving, smart and easily trainable.

Pet of the Month – Mildred

Written by Erin A.

Mildred is a 7-year-old Pit Bull Mix who loves coming to see us and is the most beautiful lady. Due to some chronic ear issues, Mildred's ears were surgically removed but that doesn't stop anyone from telling her what a good girl she is. She still loves us regardless of the different diagnostics and treatments performed.

She loves any and all food and we shower her with love and treats whenever she visits. Her family calls her their "little seal." They also share that she is "all love, no brains." We are always so happy to see this sweet lady and ready to give lots of love.



PET DENTAL AWARENESS:

We have had a large response to National Pet Dental Health awareness. Book your pet's dental cleaning and oral health exam during June and July and you will receive \$100.00 off the cost of those services.



RUFFerral Program:

At Franklin Farm we believe "RUFFerrals" are the greatest form of flattery. Refer a friend and your pet will receive a **\$25.00** credit at your next appointment. Your referral's pet will receive a FREE bag of treats at their first appointment.

Celebrations in June:

June is Pet Preparedness Month and directs you to include your pet when making disaster preparedness plans. Here is a great to start your plans:

<https://www.ready.gov/pet-toolkit>



Cancellation Policy:

Hello Everyone: We need your help! If you are unable to keep your appointment for any reason, please call to reschedule or cancel the appointment more than 24 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

This allows ample time for other clients to call and get their fur babies seen.

We understand that you all have a lot going on in your lives and unexpected things pop up, so please remember to contact us **more than 24 hours** in advance of your scheduled appointment time.

We have implemented a Cancellation Policy, as follows:

If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please do so **more than 24 hours** in advance of your appointment time. If you reschedule/cancel less than 24 hours leading up to your appointment, or no show, you will be charged for the office visit fee correlating to your appointment.

When you reschedule or cancel **more than 24 hours** in advance, it allows other patients to be seen in your rescheduled/canceled spot. This ensures the best opportunity for care for all of our patients.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance!

