

# Hot Dog!

Protect your pets from the heat



**H**ow hot is too hot? The answer is not so simple. The level of tolerance for heat varies among dogs and cats based on breed and lifestyle. A pug, for instance, will have little tolerance for heat due to their squished face and thus their inability to cool themselves adequately. Dogs that live mostly outside will be much more tolerant; however, they can also over-heat.

Heat stroke is commonly seen in veterinary practices during the summer months. Dogs that have been exposed to extreme heat are usually non-responsive with an elevated temperature. These dogs must be cooled immediately! At home, you may spray rubbing alcohol on their paws to help begin the cooling process, but veterinary intervention is needed as soon as possible. Cold intravenous fluids will be administered along with other supportive care. Despite veterinary intervention, many pets lose their battle to heat, so prevention is the key to success. Prevent the heat stroke before it starts.

When hot temperatures hit your community, extra precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of your pet. Walking your dog should take place during the early morning or evening when the heat is not at its worst. When playing outside, make sure there is plenty of fresh water that is easily accessible for your pet. Create a safe zone, free of sun that provides an adequate breeze. Limit the amount of time your pet spends outside. Sometimes Fido's drive for fun can be his own worst enemy. With these extra precautions, humans and their furry friends can both enjoy the "dog days of summer."

By Dr. Andrea Crum

*Dr. Andrea Crum is an animal lover and a vet at Eastside Animal Hospital in Jeffersonville. "Your pets are talking, and we're listening."*



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## Fly, Don't Waddle

**A**rea author Dan Williams stopped by Haven House, Southern Indiana's homeless shelter, to read his new children's book *The Duck that Lost its Waddle* to the shelter's children. Williams is a south Jefferson County resident and wrote the book about a year ago. The book is illustrated with 32 original water color drawings by illustrator Carl Baker. The Haven House visit marked the 48th time he has read his book to groups of children.

A truck driver by trade, Williams' goal is to write a book every year for the rest of his life. "I've been keeping a writer's notebook for over 20 years," he says. Now I'm opening it up and using it."

The clear message of the book is that we should all strive to reach our full potential, regardless of circumstances or what others may say. As Williams told the children at Haven House, "you don't waddle when you fly!"

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