

Your best friend  
is waiting!



**HUMANE  
SOCIETY**  
of Southern Arizona

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Summer Safety Tips**

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona would like to remind people to take extra precaution as Tucson temperatures rise.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

**Provide your pet with water:** Be sure you are constantly offering your pets water. If possible add ice to your pet's water to help keep them cool. Primarily, dogs will sweat from their mouth and will pant to cool their bodies. Providing water helps pets to maintain a safe body temperature.



**Provide Shade:** If your pet will be spending time outdoors be sure to provide a place with shade trees or a tarp to keep your pet out of the sun. While a dog house may look like ample amounts of shade it is, in fact, very restrictive -- it traps hot air rather than provides relief from the heat.

**Limit outdoor play time:** The best time to walk your pets, especially during summer, is early mornings or later in the evening. Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, which are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible.

**Keep pets out of cars!** If you are traveling with your pet never leave them in a car unattended even with the windows down. The interior and frame of a car that is parked in the sun during summer months can absorb the heat and the windows in the car act as heat insulators, causing the temperature to quickly rise. In southern Arizona, a car with the windows down can reach a scorching 110 degrees within 10 minutes.

By state law, leaving an animal unattended and confined in a motor vehicle where physical injury to or death of the animal is a likely result is considered a class 1 misdemeanor.

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If you would like more information on any of our tips or have questions always feel free to contact the HSSA at 327.6088 or visit our website at [hssaz.org](http://hssaz.org).