

Heat Stress in Animals

It is vital that animals have constant access to both water and shade as heat stress can develop extremely quickly in hot weather during summer.

RSPCA NSW and RSPCA supporters have offered the following 12 tips to help cool down pets this summer -

- Extra bowls of water (in case one is accidentally tipped over).
- Takeaway containers filled with beef/chicken stock, frozen overnight and given to outdoor animals.
- Ice cubes in water bowls. Be careful, some animals will avoid drinking the water if they are concerned about the floating ice cubes. A good alternative is to freeze half a water bowl the night before and top the remainder up with cool water when putting out.
- Extra shade areas in your backyard using shade cloths and shade umbrellas.
- Paddling pools (clams are especially popular) filled with water and under your supervision.
- NEVER leave dogs in cars, even with the windows down – dogs can't sweat; heat stress and death can occur within 6 minutes.
- Always walk your dog in the early morning or late evening to avoid the heat of the day.
- Ensure pets have easy access to shade and water throughout the day.
- Spray pet birds with a mist pump spray bottle (only if they like it!) or install a bird bath for supervised use.
- Cool a ceramic tile or oven pan in the fridge/freezer and put out for small dogs and cats to lie on.
- For pocket pets, little bags of ice wrapped in small, wet towels provides heat relief.
- Allow your outdoor animals to come inside the house and share the air conditioning or electric fan.

If you think your pet is suffering from heat stroke, please call an RSPCA veterinary hospital or your local veterinarian.



Caring For Cats



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Nuisance Cat Complaints

If you have a complaint regarding your neighbour's cat, the following steps are recommended:

- Approach the cat's owner and state your case clearly and politely, chances are they are unaware of their cat's behaviour
- If the cat owner is unapproachable or does not agree that a problem exists, you can contact Community Justice on 1800 650987, or email them on cjc_southern@agd.nsw.gov.au. This service is free, confidential and voluntary.
- If none of these methods work, contact Council's Senior Ranger on (02) 6889 9999.

How Does Council Deal With a Nuisance Cat Complaint?

Council takes the following steps after receiving a complaint about a nuisance cat:

- The owner is advised of the complaint and advice is offered on how to curb the cat's behaviour
- If further complaints are received, a Nuisance Order may be placed on the cat which stays in place for six (6) months
- Should the cat continue the nuisance behaviour, the Ranger may issue fines to the value of \$220

Further non-compliance may see the owner of the cat prosecuted by the local court (a request for the removal of the cat from the property may be sought)



Caring For Your Cat

Just like dogs, cat breeds have their own unique temperaments so when thinking about getting a cat, it is important to investigate the breed and whether or not it will fit into your lifestyle.

Consider the following before purchasing a cat:

- How much grooming it will need
- If the breed you want is shy and quiet or active and robust
- If it will be an indoor or an outdoor cat

If you need more advice or would like to adopt a cat from the Narromine Pound you can contact Council's Senior Ranger on (02) 6889 9999.

Being a Responsible Cat Owner

Cats have a reputation for being independent, but they still need care and discipline for their own health and safety. As a responsible cat owner you should:

- Keep control of your cat to minimise its impact on neighbours and wildlife
- Identify your cat with a collar and tag, have it Micro-chipped and Lifetime Registered
- Have your cat desexed