Central Texas Veterinary
SPECIALTY & EMERGENCY
HOSPITAL

What to do in an Emergency:
Heatstroke

Signs and Symptoms

- Excessive Panting
- Difficulty Breathing
- Drooling or thick, sticky saliva
- Collapse or loss of consciousness
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Bright red or pale gums
- confusion, dizziness, or seizures
- Lethargy or weakness

Take Action Immediately

- **Move to a cooler area** - Bring your pet indoors or move to shade immediately
- **Cool down gradually** - Use cool (not ice-cold) water to wet their body. Focus on HEAD, NECK, ARMPITS, and PAWS
- **Provide water** - Offer small amounts of cool water, but do not force them to drink
- **Use fans or air conditioning** - Increasing airflow can help lower body temperature
- **Seek veterinary care immediately** - Heat stroke can cause internal damage, so an exam is critical even if your pet returns to normal behavior

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Preventing Heatstroke

Prevention is key, especially in our hot and humid climate. Read these tips to prevent heat stroke before your pet experiences an emergency:

- **Avoid hot cars**- Never leave your dog in a parked vehicle, even for a short time
- **Limit outdoor activities**- Walk your pets early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are cooler. Watch your pet carefully during activity and limit the amount of time they are exercising outdoors.
- **Provide shade and water**- Always have fresh water for your pet and have access to a shaded area.
- **Use cooling aids**- Cooling vests, mats, and fans can help keep your pet cooler while outdoors
- **Be cautious with high-risk dogs**- Brachycephalic breeds, overweight dogs and senior pets should be carefully monitored as they are at higher-risk for developing heat stroke

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Contact Us for 24/7 Emergency Care!

ROUND ROCK

301 Chisholm Trail
Round Rock, TX 78681

Scan for directions to the nearest CTVSEH Emergency Hospital

SOUTH AUSTIN

4434 Frontier Trail
Austin, TX 77045

Contact Us | 512-892-9038 | www.ctvseh.com