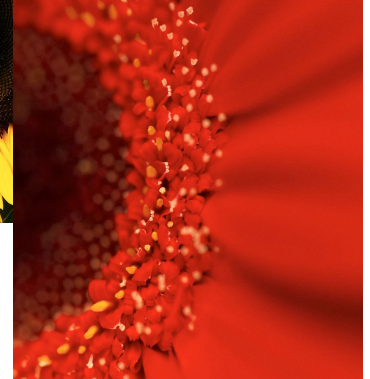


August ISIS Newsletter



[Misha from Linda
Duncan and
Whimsical Imperials](#)

Heat Stroke in Dogs, Cats, and Other Pets By: Susan Muller Esneault, DVM

Looking for a cool shady place with a cold drink to escape those warm summer temperatures? Maybe a dip in the pool or the lake will provide some relief. Some of us just hate to go outside the house during the middle of the day when we are fortunate enough to have an air-conditioner in those midsummer months. Just think of how bad it would be to have on a fur coat and have to pant to release excessive heat. Don't forget your best 4-legged friends when trying to escape those dog days of summer. Your pets are more sensitive to heat stroke than you might think.

Our pets cannot perspire or sweat like we do to cool our bodies off. If the air is thick with moisture, under conditions of **high humidity**, the efficiency of **panting to release heat** is greatly decreased and complicates the body's ability to cool down. Most dogs will need to find a cool place during much of the day to hide from the unrelenting sun and to provide some supplemental cooling power to panting. Many dogs will dig in the dirt in order to provide some relief and

are reluctant to become at all active during the heat of the day.

Short-nosed or **brachycephalic breeds** of dogs, **obese**, and older dogs with heart or lung disease are particularly susceptible to heat stroke. The **most common cause of heat stroke** in the dog occurs when the dog is trapped in a closed automobile. **Heat stroke in cats** is often seen when they become trapped in a **clothes dryer**.

Hyperthermia (above normal body temperatures) occurs when the body temperature is over 102°F. The severe hyperthermia associated with heat stroke usually occurs with body temperatures from 105°F to 110°F.

At temperatures above 106°F, the parenchyma of many cells undergoes damage though the **denaturation of proteins** as well as chemical and enzymatic degradation. When body temperatures rise above 110°F animals have only a few hours to live unless the temperature is brought back within a normal range. The **tissues most sensitive to heat** include the kid-

neys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, and the brain.

The more common **clinical signs of heat stroke** include **excessive panting, congested hyperemic mucus membranes, vomiting, diarrhea** (often bloody), **dehydration, hypersalivation, and hypovolemic shock**. The affected pet produces very little urine (**oliguria**), and when they urinate will pass large amounts of protein with their urine (**proteinuria**). **Cerebral edema** (swelling of the brain) may result, causing **seizures, hypoventilation, coma, respiratory and cardiac arrest**. Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) may occur early in severe cases or be seen shortly before death occurs and is usually attributed to liver damage affecting the production of proteins and blood coagulating (clotting) factors.

Emergency treatment consists of **lowering the patient's body temperature**, typically by immersing the animal in cold water. In severe cases a cool water enema may

Inside this issue:

- Heatstroke Continued 2
- Life Of A Puppy 2
- Why Grooming Is Important 2
- Choosing Dog Toys Wisely 3
- Inside Story 4



[Sarah from Cathie Owens and Bobcat's Imperial Shih Tzu](#)



"You can say any fool thing to a dog, and the dog will give you this look that says, 'My God, you're RIGHT! I NEVER would've thought of that!'" - Dave Barry



[Vance from Bobbi Ransier and The Shire Shih Tzu](#)

Heatstroke Continued

assist in reducing the core body temperature quickly but will make it harder to determine what the core body temperature is at any point in time. Box fans may be strategically placed to provide more rapid cooling of the wet pet. Cerebral edema may be prevented through the use of **corticosteroids**, or in advanced or severe cases by the use of

mannitol. Dehydration should be corrected through the use of **intravenous fluids**. Compromised cells may allow for bacterial growth and septicemia (the spread of bacteria through the bloodstream) therefore **antibiotics** should also be given. At least one author suggests that **Oxyglobin®** may improve oxygen delivery to affected tissues.

Pets that seizure will require **anticonvulsants**.

Even in recovered individuals there may be permanent central nervous system dysfunction such as **seizures**, and the pet may be more prone to future episodes of heat stroke.

Life of a Puppy

This morning, I woke up & kissed my dad's head. I peed on the carpet, then went back to bed. "The life of a puppy, oh my, this is great. "Then I thought about breakfast," I hope it's not late." Mom took me outside, we walked for a while. This never fails to make Mama smile. I sniffed of everything, that we did pass, I ate something weird - it gave me gas. I'm sure God loves me, I know that is true. He gave me so many great things to chew. Rugs, plants or rocks, I really don't care. What I truly like best, is Dad's underwear. That obedience book, was sort of yummy. Though it didn't sit well on my poor puppy tummy. I threw up a bit, but that was all right, When Mom found it later, I was well out of sight. I made streamers of T. P., while running at full speed. Mom is pretty quick -- but I was still in the lead. I flew under the bed, and Mom flew past, She stopped-shook her head, and breathed, "You're too fast." Mama later phoned Daddy, and said, "It was frightening!" That afternoon, she was sure I'd pooped lightning. She'd sat at the computer, while I chewed the cord, She thought I was mad, but I was just bored. When Mama had enough, couldn't take anymore, That's when my tushy got shoved out the door. I love it inside, but outside is best. Lay in the cool grass, and had a good rest. That didn't last long, there was too much to do--Can't quite remember where I hid Daddy's shoe. I found an old bone, and scratched at a flea, I watched the dumb squirrels as they jumped in a tree. I barked at the kids, when they got off the bus. I can't figure out why this makes Mama fuss. I barked at the neighbor, I barked at the wind. I barked and barked, till Mom yelled, "COME IN." The sun dipped in the west-soon Daddy would come! I sure love my daddy: we always have fun. I barked at my daddy, then turned on my charms, I woo-wooded, "Hello," then jumped in his arms. Sitting under the table -- it's sooo hard to wait. Daddy slipped me a goodie right off his plate. I raced through the house, and scattered my toys, Ricocheted off the furniture, and made lots of noise. Mom found her purse - the one I abused. Daddy let loose a chuckle. Mom asked "Amused??" I cowered down low, I must be in trouble. Dad said, "Wasn't MY boy, it must be his double!" Mom turned off the TV, and said, "Time for bed." Dad said "Let's go boy," and patted my head. I got in my spot, between Mom and Dad, I thought 'bout my day and what fun I had. Mama kicked out my bone from the covers below, Then let loose a sigh -- a sigh deep and low. She gave me a kiss, and snuggled me tight ,And whispered so softly, 'My darling goodnight'.

Why Dog Grooming Is Important

There are a plethora of reasons why every dog owner should groom their dog frequently. Such practice is highly important for it will make your canine pet be in good shape, physically and emotionally.

If your dog is clean and well-groomed all the time, he will be free from germs and bacteria. His fur will be a lot nicer and not be infested by nasty fleas and ticks and, most importantly, you will keep him away from any canine diseases at bay, making him more active.

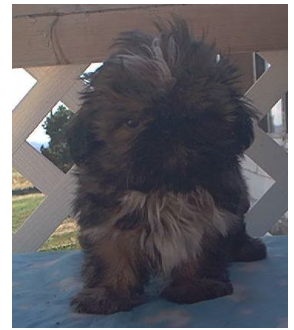
A clean dog is more well-behaved than the dirty ones. Dogs plagued by fleas, for instance, are always irritable and bad tempered, and tend to show signs of bad dog

behaviors such as excessive barking. True enough, the physical state of your dog has a big impact on the way he feels and reacts to people around him.

Dog grooming is a responsibility of every owner that is not that hard to do. Giving your dog a good pet bath once a week is one of them which obviously doesn't take that much time. It is the easiest and most effective method to make your dogs clean and eliminate the dirt he got from playing outside. In bathing your pet, the use of anti-fleas shampoo and conditioner is recommended to ensure the absolute removal of these pests on your pet's fur and skin.

Moreover, grooming your dog will definitely give an enormous comfort on

him. It is also a great bonding time between you and your dog. Besides bathing him, take time to trim his nails regularly and brush his hair daily. Brushing your dog's hair on a daily basis is an important part of every pet's hygiene for it reduces shedding and promotes healthy skin. You can also boost the energy level of your dog by grooming him. Taking him to the salon where he can be pampered by professionals will allow the rejuvenation of his senses



[Puppy from Linda Northington and Ricklyns Shih Tzu](#)



“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Choosing Dog Toys Wisely by Gerry Ronson

If you haven't realized it yet there has been a huge controversy this year with some children's toys, and if you stop to think you will realize that dog toys are just as susceptible. Many of the dog toys sold in stores, especially in America have been made in China. This means that they can be harmful. The dog toy market is unregulated. This means that some of the toys could have harmful properties that will actually make your dog sick over time. It is important that you pay attention to where the toys are made and how they are made when choosing your dogs toys. Often we just find the dog toys we think our pet will love. We also let them choose some of the toys when we're in the pet store. But you need to start paying more attention.

You should read the package of the dog toy to find out what it has been made of. Rubber, cloth, painted toys, and many other toys

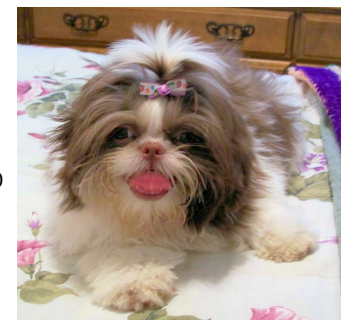
may have toxic properties. You may find that it is better to go to a specialty toy shop rather than a generic pet supply store. Lead has actually been used in the creation of dog toys. So you should be a little concerned about the dog toys you are buying. Here are a few toys that your dog may like, and they are probably pretty safe. Remember to check the label for its contents before purchasing these toys though.

You may think that rope is pretty harmless; however there are some rope toys that could actually harm your dog. A rope toy is usually made with a braided rope and two ends that have been knotted. When you are choosing this type of dog toy you will want to make sure the rope has not been colored. Rope that has been colored has a potential of having harmful chemicals in the synthetic making. In fact you are probably better off buying rope from a hardware store, like twine and

making your own braided rope. If you are looking in a pet shop stay away from the brightly colored ropes that have been dyed. The color of the rope will not matter for the toy.

Fleece and Plush toys are one of any dog's favorite toys. They love to bite them, catch them, and chew on them. Puppies are especially happy to have plush toys as it makes their gums feel better. Plush toys can also be harmful. While the synthetic material they are made out of may be okay in small doses leaving the dog to chew on a plush toy while you are not home can have disastrous effects. The dog can open up the toy and start chewing on the stuffing. It is best to only offer this toy when you are home and can watch them play with it. It is also a great toy for interaction.

There are rubber balls and rubber squeaky toys that can be okay to give to your dog.



[Latte from Denise Gooch and Hidden City Imperial Shih](#)



<http://imperialshihzuinformationsociety.com>

Choosing Dog Toys Wisely Continued

Keep in mind that you do want to know the ingredients just in case, but for the most part rubber unless eaten is pretty safe for your dog to chew on. Rubber balls or squeaky toys that the dog can chase are one of the most popular toys.

You can also buy rubber tug toys that have an elastic band in the middle. These are also safe toys to an extent. You don't want to leave the dog alone with the toy to chew on, but a daily play time with this toy is usually enjoyable for both parties.



[Puppy enjoying Summer from Cindy Hendrix from Tinypawz Imperial Shih Tzu](#)



[Zolly from Karen Christensen and Eaglegate Imperial Shih Tzu](#)

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?
Shih Tzu “Puh-leeze, dah-ling. Let the servants. . . .”