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Summer heat and your pets

Summer is here and it can be a great time to bond with your pets. However, higher temperatures also mean higher risks for our furry companions so it is important to be prepared for the hot days ahead.

“This time of year is ideal for a lot of people to spend more time with their pets while enjoying a break or travelling,” said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. “Pets do not deal with heat in the same way as humans, so it is important to remember that if the heat is uncomfortable for you then your pet is also uncomfortable or possibly already dehydrated. A bit of extra planning around food, water and exercise will help ensure your pets enjoy the summer as much as you do.”

“Frozen treats are a great way to help cool your pets internally and they will love you for it. Providing cooling mats to lay on, wading pools or even a garden sprinkler is a fun way to help pets beat the summer heat,” said Cr Doolan.

Walking your dog in the summer months may mean a change in your regular walking route to protect your dog’s paws from burns on hot surfaces such as asphalt roads or cement footpaths. These surfaces not only risk burnt paws but can increase body temperature and lead to overheating. Stay on grassed areas as much as possible and remember that pets cool from the bottom up – if their paws are hot, they are hot.

Sunburn is also an issue for pets, especially those of a lighter colour. Pet sunscreen is readily available and should be applied if you are out and about with your pet for lengthy periods of time.

“The most serious issue in summer months is leaving animals unattended in vehicles. Even with windows partially open the internal temperature of a vehicle can exceed 40 degrees in less than 10 minutes. It is illegal to leave an animal in a car that is not running with the air conditioner on, any breaches of this should be reported to local police or Council’s Compliance Officers,” said Cr Doolan.

“We hope everyone has a wonderful summer enjoying quality time with their pets, but remember that animals will have increased needs over the hotter months,” concluded Cr Doolan.

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