



Calvert County News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Safety Issues Animal Safety Alert Due to Forecasted Weather

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – June 18, 2025 – Due to forecasted high temperatures for Wednesday, June 18, through Thursday, June 19, the Department of Public Safety has issued an animal safety alert.

During this period, animal owners or custodians are required to provide appropriate protection from the weather, including adequate shelter, water, space and access to shade.

Pay special attention to animals most prone to heat stroke:

- **Brachycephalic Breeds:** Dogs and cats with short noses, such as bulldogs, pugs, boxers, Persians and Shih Tzus, have compromised airways that make it difficult for them to cool themselves through panting.
- **Older Animals:** Senior pets often have health conditions that make them less able to regulate their body temperature, increasing their risk of heat stroke.
- **Young Animals:** Puppies and kittens are less capable of handling extreme temperatures due to their developing bodies.
- **Animals with Preexisting Health Conditions:** Pets with respiratory, cardiovascular or other health issues are at higher risk of heat stroke due to their compromised health.
- **Thick-Coated Breeds:** Animals with dense fur, such as huskies, malamutes and long-haired cats, may struggle to stay cool in hot weather.
- **Outdoor Animals:** Animals kept outdoors should be monitored at all times and brought into a temperature-controlled environment if they begin to show signs of

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distress such as vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling, dizziness, disorientation, seizure or heavy panting.

Take preventative measures to protect animals during hot weather:

- Provide ample water and shade to help them stay cool.
- Avoid hot surfaces such as pavement and asphalt to prevent burns and overheating.
- Adjust activity levels and exercise animals during cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening, and keep sessions short.
- Use cooling aids like cooling mats, fans or damp towels for animals to lie on, and consider using pet-safe cooling vests.
- Never leave pets in parked cars, which can quickly reach lethal temperatures, even with the windows slightly open.
- Monitor at-risk pets closely and keep them indoors as much as possible during excessive heat.
- Be vigilant for symptoms of heat stroke, including excessive panting, drooling and lethargy.

If you suspect an animal is suffering from heat stroke, immediately:

- Move the animal to a cooler area.
- Offer small amounts of cool (not cold) water.
- Wet the animal with cool water and use a fan to aid cooling.
- Contact a veterinarian immediately for further instructions.

Failure to comply with these safety measures may result in penalties, including fines up to \$1,000 or 30 days in jail.

To report concerns, citizens may contact the Animal Control Division at 410-535-1600, ext. 2526, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours, concerns may be reported to the non-emergency line at 410-535-3491.

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