

(DOG VET)

Dr Adam Gordon - Maroubra Veterinary Hospital

Adam Gordon graduated from the University of Sydney in 1990. He completed a Masters degree in Veterinary Studies at Murdoch University in 2002. Adam has been in companion animal practice since 1990 and is Principal of Maroubra Veterinary Hospital.

88 Bunnerong Road, Pagewood NSW 2035
Phone: (02) 9344 8722
Website: www.maroubravet.com.au





walk with me.

-  Hands Free Dog Walking! Your Dog Remains Safe and Secure with You at All Times.
-  Carry Everything You Need for Walks! Phone, Keys, Ball, Pooh Bags.
-  Reduces the Effects of Pulling! Your Dog Cannot Pull Out of Your Hands.
-  Helps Prevent Over-Correction! Your Dog Quickly Learns to Walk by Your Side.
-  Adjustable Length and Transformable Lead! Can also be used as a regular Hand Held Lead.
-  Easy Tie Up, Your Dog Clips On and Off! No More Fiddly Knots. Your Valuables Stay with You.
-  Australian Made, Owned and Designed.

Web: www.dogpack.com.au Ph: 0431 987 733
Email: dogpack@dogpack.com.au



Whilst most of us look forward to the long hot days of summer and the opportunity to get out and about and head to the beach, it is vital to remember that our pets can suffer terribly in hot weather if we do not take appropriate precautions.

Heatstroke, as the name suggests, is a condition where the body temperature becomes elevated beyond normal levels for a sustained period of time. The term hyperthermia refers to an increased body temperature. Animals, like us, have a number of mechanisms to counter a potentially dangerous increase in body temperature. When these mechanisms are insufficient to cool the body to safe levels heatstroke occurs.

When I say a sustained period of time, we are not talking long. Dogs exercising in conditions of high environmental temperature and humidity can become dangerously hyperthermic and at risk of heat stroke in as little as 30 minutes, especially if there is no shade or an opportunity to rest and cool down.

I think these days it is pretty much common knowledge that dogs must not be left in cars for any length of time on hot days. Temperatures in cars can exceed 50 degrees in a very short space of time. A dog left in this situation is almost certain to develop heatstroke.

The mechanisms of losing body heat are very different in people and dogs. Sweating is the main mechanism whereby people lose body heat. Dogs lack sweat glands in their skin, and so primarily rely on heat loss by panting. In humid conditions, as is very common in Sydney in summer, panting becomes a less effective means of losing body heat. A second method by which dogs lose body heat in hot conditions is by lying on a cool surface such as tiles.

There are some dogs that are at particularly high risk of heatstroke. This includes dogs that are overweight (yes, another good reason to maintain healthy weight in our pets) and brachycephalic breeds of dog. These are dogs that have very short snouts such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Pekingese, Bulldogs, Shih-Tzu's and Chow Chows.

Heatstroke is an absolutely devastating condition with very high mortality rates if it is not treated urgently. It goes without saying that prevention is the key here. Early recognition of the signs of heat stroke is imperative so that urgent treatment can be sought. Signs that may be seen include excessive panting, collapse, vomiting, drooling, weakness, diarrhoea and seizures.

If you suspect that your pet is suffering heat stroke you must seek immediate veterinary attention. Whilst there are some measures you can take to reduce your pet's body temperature at home, your veterinarian can administer the most appropriate treatment to maximise the chances of survival.

Dogs brought to the vet within 90 minutes of the onset of hyperthermia have a higher chance of survival. It is not clear if animals cooled at home prior to being taken to the vet have a better chance of survival. However dogs that are overcooled are more likely to die. Never use very cold water or ice baths to try and cool your pet down, as this actually makes it harder for your pet to lose body heat.

Mortality rates from heatstroke have been reported as ranging from 50% to 70%. If the patient survives the first 24 hours they are more likely to survive.

Again, prevention, prevention, prevention. This means:

- Keep your pet at a healthy weight
- Ensure your pet has adequate shade at home if outdoors on hot days
- Place ice cubes in their drinking water in hot conditions and make sure

they have plenty of water if you will be out for the day (100ml of water per kg of body weight will be more than enough for most dogs)

- If you own an at risk breed, avoid exercise on hot days and utilise fans and air-conditioners where possible
- On very hot days try and exercise your dog outside of the hottest part of the day and for no more than 30 minutes without rest and a drink of water.
- Cool packs can be placed in the groin and armpits
- You may spray your pet with cool, NOT COLD, water. If your pet is shivering the core body temperature will increase. This is a dangerous situation, which again, necessitates immediate veterinary attention.



The Drug Free Solution to Dog Anxiety

Thundershirts are great for:

- Fear of Thunder/Fireworks
- Separation Anxiety
- Travel Anxiety
- Problem Barking
- Hyperactivity
- Leash Pulling
- and more.....



For details of your local stockist, please call:

Pet's Providore
49 Adams Road, Mariginiup (Wanneroo) WA 6065
Email: admin@petsprovidore.com.au
Website: www.petsprovidore.com.au

08 92060349