

Heat Stroke and your Frenchie... **CUT OUT AND KEEP**

Every dog is a potential victim of heat exhaustion, but the shorter breathing system of the French Bulldog is what puts them at such a very strong risk for heat stroke. Learn how to prevent and prepare for this life-threatening condition before summer...

In French Bulldogs shorter airway = less possibility of cooling the air which the dog draws into its body. Dogs do not sweat, their only means of reducing built-up body heat is by panting. The leading cause of heat exhaustion and heat stroke is leaving dog in a hot car. Leaving a window slightly open WILL NOT prevent heat build-up. Leaving a dog in a car, even on a warm day is a risk to the dog's life.

Remember, **CARS CAN KILL IN WARM WEATHER**. All Frenchies, no matter how well they breath, or how active or healthy they are, are at risk from heat stroke.

The first signs of HEAT EXHAUSTION are;

Excessive panting

The skin on the inside of the ears becomes flushed and red

At this point action needs to be taken to cool down your Frenchie. If you fail to do so heat exhaustion can progress to HEAT STROKE. Signs of heat stroke are:

Weakness

Staggering

Fainting—loss of consciousness

HEAT STROKE IS AN EMERGENCY— treat the dog NOW!

Heat stroke is an emergency situation. If your dog shows signs of heat stroke, you must cool him down as rapidly as possible. Do not wait for veterinary treatment.

HEAT STROKE CAN LEAVE PERMANENT DAMAGE.

1. DO NOT try to force the dog to drink. His swelling airways can cause any liquid he takes in to be regurgitated and possibly aspirated into his lungs. Try clearing his throat of excessive phlegm.
2. Hose the dog down with cool water—not cold.
4. Apply an ice pack to the dog's head/neck area.
5. Soak towels in cool water for the dog to lie on.
6. If possible, get him into a tub of cool water—again, cool—not cold!
Pour the water all over the body, keep the water flowing, don't allow the water to become warm, keep refreshing the supply in the tub.
7. Do not stop treatment until your dog's body temperature is approaching normal. As soon as the dog's internal temperature has stabilized at a near normal level transport the dog to your vet.

8. None of the above treatments are substitutions for veterinary care— whenever possible, do them enroute to the VERY CLOSEST veterinary clinic.

PREVENTION AND PREPARATION

Many dogs will play until they drop. You must supervise the games and determine when it is time to stop. Don't allow your dog to play with other dogs or children unsupervised by you in warm weather. During hot weather limit you dog's time outside. Be sure there is a shaded area for your dog to rest in and that your dog has a constant supply of clean, cool water, in more than one water bowl in case it is tipped over. NEVER, EVER, underestimate your dog's susceptibility to heat stroke. Of course the main weapon in the prevention of heat stroke is vigilance. Be alert to your dog's actions and responses and be aware of the fact that what may seem like a mildly warm weather day for you may be entirely too hot for your dog.

Limit activities in hot weather, avoid contact with pavement and concrete (you may not feel radiant heat off pavement and concrete but it will "cook" your Frenchie) and always allow them access to more than one bowl of fresh cool water, lots of shade and cool areas to escape from the heat and humidity in and out of the house. NEVER leave your Frenchie in a locked car, even during temperate warm weather.

During Western Australia's heat wave conditions where temperatures stay around 40°C for a week or more at a time we suggest NO activity at all, and keeping your Frenchie indoors.

There are several good cool coats and cool packs on the market to help your dog maintain a lower body temperature. (visit www.coolcoats.net for an

Australian supplier.) Made with an absorbent non-toxic polymer crystal that stay moist for days (available from Bunnings in the garden section). With very little sewing skill, some Velcro and terry towelling you can fashion your own dog's cool coat, in whatever size or colour suits you both the best.

Carry a warm weather emergency kit with the following items:

Large bottle of water

Cool down coat

Cool down towels

Its fairly easy to keep a small travel bag in your car with these items. At the very least it is much better than the alternatives.

For \$30.00 you can purchase a child's paddling pool from department stores that most Frenchies love to wallow in during warm weather. You can encourage your Frenchie to use it by throwing toys in the water and encouraging him to get them out.

REMEMBER, YOUR FRENCHIE COUNTS ON YOU TO KEEP HIM SAFE IN SUMMER WEATHER. IT TAKES ONLY A FEW MOMENTS FOR SOMETHING TO GO WRONG. OR YOU CAN TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PREVENT IT.