



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health Department Reminds Citizens To Care For Pets During Extreme Heat

BALTIMORE, MD (July 20, 2011) – Over the next several days, Baltimore City will experience an extreme heat event that could lead to loss of life. It is imperative that residents, including our animal friends, stay cool and hydrated during these hot days.

The Baltimore City Health Department's Animal Control program reminds pet owners to:

- Provide shade. Ensure that your pet has protection from the heat and sun – a dog house does not provide relief from heat. Bring your pet inside during the hottest part of the day (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
- Provide fresh water. Animals do not sweat like humans. They need fresh, clean water to keep their temperatures low. Replenish their water dish with cool water often throughout the day if the animal must be kept outside.
- Limit exercise during the hottest hours of the day. Exercise your pet in the early morning or in the evening. When possible, walk your dog on the grass. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.
- Never leave your pet in a parked car. On an 85 degree day, the temperature inside a vehicle with the windows slightly open can reach 102 degrees Fahrenheit within 10 minutes. Overheating can result in irreversible organ damage or even death.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion in pets: drooling, excessive panting and lethargic behavior. Seek veterinarian care immediately if your pets are exhibiting any of these symptoms.

“Our pets rely on us for their health and well-being. This includes protecting them from the heat, especially during Code Red Heat Alerts,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot.

Call 311 to report cases of neglect. If you see an animal or small child alone in a parked car, call 911 immediately.

For more information on the City's Code Red Heat Alert plan, visit <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/coderedinfo>.

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