

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



## Do dogs sweat when they get hot?

Actually compared to humans, dogs have very few sweat glands on their skin. They are only able to sweat a very small amount between their toes, but not anywhere else. This fact is important as dogs cannot rely on sweating to help cool them when they get hot. Instead they rely on other processes, such as panting. Panting or breathing very fast and shallow allows lots of air to flow through the airways, which is very effective in carrying away heat and allowing dogs to cool. Still as with people, dogs can overheat on a very hot day which can result in heat stroke. When overheated, dogs may seek shaded cool areas and pant excessively. However, severe cases can be fatal and affected dogs may collapse, requiring immediate veterinary care. Dogs most at risk include those with breathing issues, including short-nosed dogs like bulldogs. There are a variety of ways to help dogs stay cool during the hot summer months. First, try to keep pets indoors in a cool place and do not leave pets alone in a closed car during the hottest times of the day. Also if dogs are outside, provide plenty of cool water and shade. You may also try wetting a dog's fur. As the water evaporates off the fur, it carries away excessive heat and helps in cooling. Overall, even though dogs do not rely on sweating to cool off, they have their own ways to stay cool! And with our help, they can handle even the hottest of days!

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