



## **HOW HOT WEATHER EFFECTS CANINES**

**80+** degrees, please be kind & do NOT walk or exercise them

**70+** degrees, please be kind & do NOT leave them in parked vehicles

**\*\*\*Always check the temperature before you leave for a walk\*\*\***

- 1) They have a higher internal body temperature than humans, so they overheat twice as quickly as humans. Canines do not have the ability to cool themselves through sweating through the pores like humans.
- 2) They cool themselves through the bottoms of their feet, so if their feet are in contact with burning hot pavement, they will overheat rapidly & their pads can burn from walking on hot pavement – have you ever seen a dog constantly picking up it's feet while walking or constantly stopping? Their feet are hot! Would you like to walk barefoot on hot pavement?
- 3) They loose body water through evaporation from panting. So the more hot the dogs become, the harder they pant, resulting in loss of body water lost, which makes them more susceptible to dehydration. Always carry water with you & provide a periodic water break.
- 4) Their bodies can also get sunburned (ears, nose, eyes, etc.). The unfortunate ones who are subjected to being left outside & those with short coats are the most susceptible. Black coated dogs absorb even more heat from the sun!
- 5) Each year, thousands of dogs are treated for dehydration, heat exhaustion, & heat stroke; many die from this. Know the signs to watch out for, & always check the outdoor temperature before you leave for a walk. If it's 80+ degrees, be kind & leave them home.
- 6) It is important to keep their paw hair trimmed very short in between the toes & pads because that excess hair traps moisture & dirt/debris, & also aids in heat retention. Also, clean the ears regularly with an appropriate product that keeps the ear canals dry.
- 7) Every summer, animal care professionals place articles in the newspaper & magazines warning people about how dangerous it is to walk dogs when it is hot outside & the dangers of leaving them in parked vehicles, yet people still do it! Please keep them cool.

**Our dogs rely upon us to make responsible choices for them. Just because YOU can handle the heat does NOT mean they can.**