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**NEWS
RELEASE**

05 / 17 / 2023

El Paso Animal Services Reminds Public to Keep Pets Safe During Summer's Rising Temperatures

El Paso, Texas – With temperatures rising across the borderland, El Paso Animal Services would like to remind the community of the simple steps to take for the safety of their pets during hot weather.

Don't leave your animals in the car:

A car can overheat even when the window has been left cracked an inch or two as rolling down the windows does not provide appropriate air flow. When it's only 80° outside, the inside of a car can rapidly heat up to more than 120° within minutes. Leave your dogs at home with air conditioning instead of taking them with you.

Make sure your pet has access to drinkable water, shade, & shelter:

The best place for your pets during hot weather is inside, but if you are unable to do so, make sure they have access to proper shelter, shade, and plenty of fresh, clean water. It's also important to keep in mind that metal water bowls get very hot in hot weather and can make water undrinkable.

Don't walk your dogs during the hottest parts of the days:

Your pet's paws are just as sensitive to the heat as your bare feet. Always check by pressing your hand onto the surface for 7 seconds. Can't do it? Then neither can your pet! Always remember to keep your dog on a leash when they're outdoors and only walk your pet during the cooler morning or evening hours. Bring your pets indoors whenever possible, especially during triple-digit days.

Dogs can overheat easily:

Any dog is at risk of overheating, however young, overweight, or elderly animals, those with short muzzles, or thick or dark-colored coats are most at risk of overheating. Symptoms of heat stroke are excessive panting, excessive drooling, reddened gums, rapid heart rate, and wobbliness. If you suspect your pet is overheated, call your veterinarian immediately and move your pet to a cooler area, place a cool, damp towel on their back, and allow them to drink small amounts of water. Avoid sudden cooling such as an ice bath.

If you see an animal in distress, call 311.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Julie Newbold
Public Affairs Coordinator
(915) 493-4324