



RSPCA School for Dogs Information Sheet

Tips for Summer

Need some advice on how to keep your dog entertained and cool during long summer days? We have you covered.

Food

Try frozen ice treats! Try freezing filled kongs (be careful not to overfill kongs when freezing), favourite toys, suitable pieces of fruit (such as berries, apple, banana), dry dog food, or make chicken pupsicles!



Water

Introduce a paddling pool to your dog. Try placing a few yummy treats in a shallow pool first (eg a couple of cm deep) and encourage your dog to step in!

A paddling pool also doubles as an extra water source for your dog.

Make sure you have several sources of drinking water around the house and yard in shady areas, and put some ice cubes in to keep the water cool.

Swimming pools

Not all dogs know how to swim! If you have a backyard pool, ensure your dog knows how to swim and also how to get out of the pool. Teach your dog to swim to a certain point at the edge of the pool where the stairs are. You can purchase ramps (known as scamper ramps), and visual markers on the edge may help.



Exercise

Only walk your dog in the cooler times of the day such as early in the morning or later in the evening. Be aware that later in the day, the road surface may still be extremely hot, so use the grass.

Sleeping spots

Dogs will normally find the coolest spot of the house or yard themselves, but place outside beds or mats in shady or cool spots. Some dogs will also dig in the dirt to find the cool earth below to lie in. Try dampening your dog's blankets or mats with water to create cool resting spots, or you can also buy cool mats and cool jackets specifically for dogs.