

# KEEPING PETS COOL IN SUMMER

As the temperature rises, it's important to consider how you are going to keep your pet/s safe and healthy in the warmer months.

Below are some tips from Maranoa Regional Council's Community Safety Team to keep your pet cool during summer.

## Companion Animals

- All pets should be kept in shady areas throughout the day and it is ideal to bring pets indoors on hot days. If they must be left outside, ensure their enclosures are out of direct sunlight and protected from the sun as the shade moves throughout the day.
- Smaller pets, such as guinea pigs and birds, are more susceptible to heat and should be brought inside during hot weather. On particularly hot days, cover their cage with wet towels and place an icepack or frozen water bottle for the animal to lean against.
- Provide plenty of fresh, cool water in large containers. Be sure to provide numerous sources of water in case one is spilt. Ensure containers are in the shade.
- Providing your pet with a frozen treat or placing ice blocks in their water dishes to help keep them cool.
- Walk your dog in the coolness of the early morning or evening, especially on very hot days. This will help your pet avoid dehydration, sunburn and potentially painful paws (try walking on the grass rather than the hot concrete which can burn their paws!).
- If your pet seems to be in discomfort, try wetting its feet and misting water onto its face. This is an option

for dogs, cats, poultry and caged birds as many animals control their inner temperature through their feet. Please note, it's important not to saturate a bird's feathers as this can cause them to go into shock.

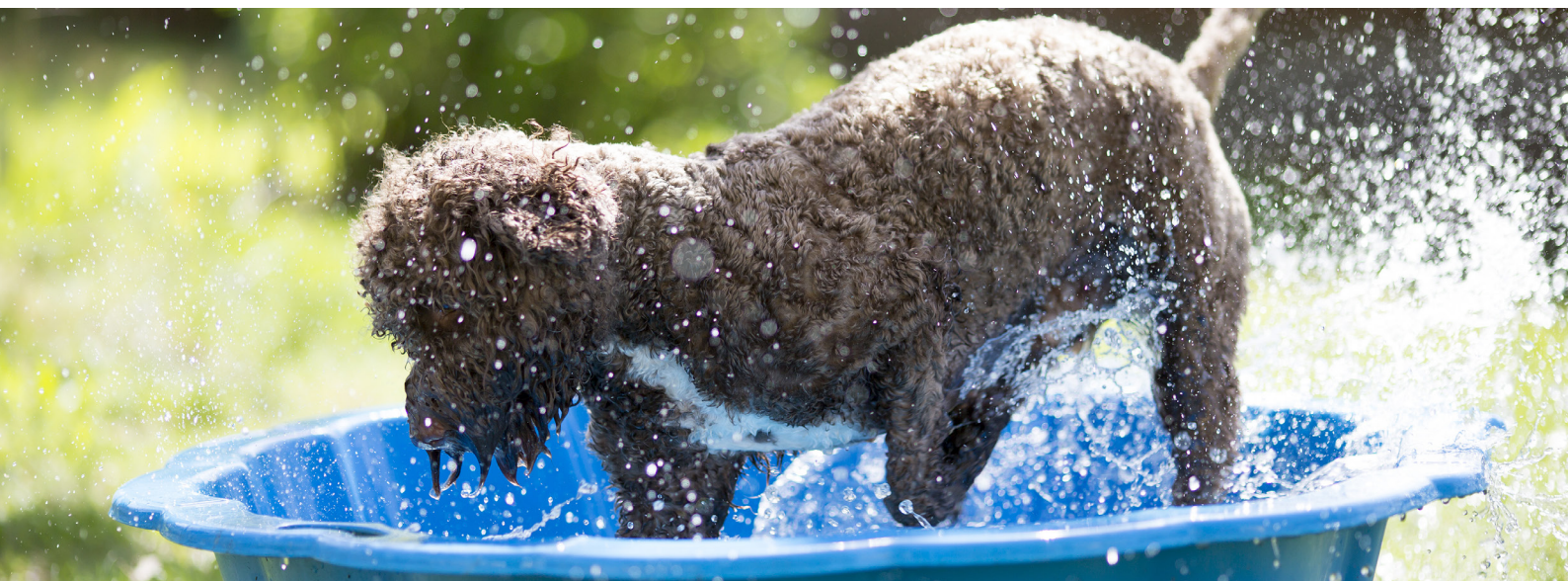
- Fleas and ticks love the warmer weather, and unfortunately itches and bites add to the discomfort heat can cause to your pets. Ensure your pet is kept up to date with treatments to keep the itchiness at bay.
- When the heat soars, take the opportunity to give your pet a bath with lukewarm water. This will instantly cool them down and prevent overheating.

## Horses & Livestock

- Make sure your horses and livestock have access to shade.
- Provide extra water for your horses and livestock.

## Animals in hot cars

- NEVER leave your pet in the car in warm weather. It takes only minutes for death to occur if an animal is left in the car. If you see an animal locked in a hot car, immediately phone police on 000.



*My Pet. My Responsibility. My Maranoa.*

For more information, contact Council's  
Community Safety Team on 1300 007 662.

