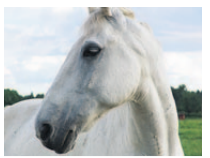


Your best friend



Beating the heat

Tips to keep your pet cool

The RSPCA NSW has several tips to help cool down pets this summer.

- * Extra bowls of water.
- * Takeaway containers filled with beef/chicken stock, frozen overnight and given to outdoor animals.
- * Ice cubes in water bowls. Be careful, some animals will avoid drinking the water if they are concerned about the floating ice cubes. A good alternative is to freeze half a water bowl the night before and top the remainder up with cool water when putting out.
- * Extra shade areas in your backyard using shade cloths and shade umbrellas.
- * Paddling pools (clams are especially popular) filled with water and under your supervision.
- * Spray pet birds with a mist pump spray bottle or install a bird bath for supervised use.
- * Cool a ceramic tile or oven pan in the fridge/freezer and put out for small dogs and cats to lie on.
- * For pocket pets, little bags of ice wrapped in small, wet towels provides heat relief.
- * Allow your outdoor animals to come inside the house and share the air conditioning or electric fan.

While Yass Valley's residents switch on fans and air conditioners to beat the heat, their pets are also hoping to avoid the rising temperatures.

Yass veterinarian Rachael O'Leary said cats and dogs often struggle in summer and owners should look out for signs of heat stress.

"They get really deep red gums, they can vomit, they get diarrhoea, and often they will just have collapsed," Dr O'Leary said.

She said if your pet has reached that stage, like any human being, they should get treatment.

"Your best bet is to get them into the vets where we can get them IV fluids and try to cool them down."

The vet said short-nosed dogs like Pugs were much more prone to heat stress because they already find it difficult to breathe, and panting makes that worse.

She said access to water was the most important thing.

"Dogs that are in outside runs need to have adequate shade and at least two water bowls," she said.

The vet said it wasn't just when the pets are at home, it's easy to forget how hot it can get when out and about.

Just like it's dangerous to leave a baby in a car, it's unsafe to keep your pet in the car.

"It is much hotter in the car than out... having a window down is not enough."



• A paddling pool will help your pet beat the heat this summer.



Time Out Pet Care

- In home or on farm pet care
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Take some time out

With Catherine Burgess

I set up my small business to cater for those of us who are animal enthusiasts and caring for a range of pets from horses, alpacas, sheep, cats and dogs to fish and birds.

I was always running around feeding the neighbours pets, large and small and from this saw the opportunity to start a small business to cater for that gap in the market.

I have owned and successfully shown horses for the past 30 years in addition to this I have owned bred Angus cattle for over 10 years prior to moving to a smaller holding at Yass.

I have a varied client base and I am pleased to say that I enjoy caring for each and every one of them and their special little ways.

Time Out Pet Care is focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction, I will do everything I can to meet your expectations.

I have extensive experience in looking after large and small animals both farm and domestic pets.

If you want a professional job done, then you need to employ a reliable, competent professional who has taken the time and effort to set up a business and operate in a businesslike manner someone who genuinely enjoys caring for your animals large and small.

My belief is based on the belief that my customers' needs and the needs of their pets are of the utmost importance. I am committed to meeting those needs.

As a result, a high percentage of

my business is from repeat customers and referrals.

I am professional and caring and very experienced, looking after large and small animals for the past five years.

I will rug and unrug horses as to the clients' needs and weather conditions. I offer once or twice a day visits. I will tailor my visits to meet your pet's needs and your requests. I include mail collection and bins in and out as part of the service.

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