HOW DO PETS KEEP COOL IN THE SUMMER?

When summer arrives, many of us enjoy playing outside, eating ice lollies, and cooling off in the shade. But have you ever wondered how your pets stay cool when the weather gets hot?

Unlike humans, animals can't simply take off a jumper or switch on a fan. Different pets have their own clever ways of beating the heat!

Dogs: The Panting Pros

Have you ever noticed your dog panting on a warm day? Dogs don't sweat much through their skin like people do. Instead, they cool down by panting.
When a dog pants, moisture evaporates from its tongue and mouth, helping to lower its body temperature. That's why you'll often see dogs with their tongues hanging out on sunny days.

Dogs also enjoy:

- Lying on cool floors
- Resting in shady spots
- Splashing in paddling pools
- Drinking plenty of fresh water

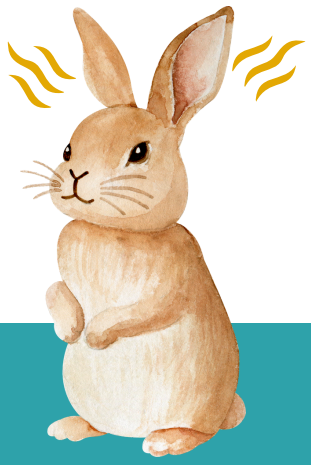
Cats: Masters of Relaxation

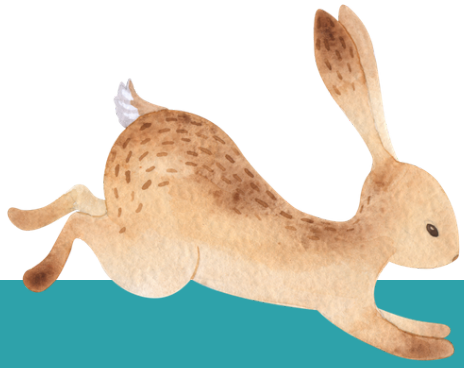
Cats are experts at staying cool. During hot weather, they often spend more time resting and less time running around.

Cats cool themselves by:

- Grooming their fur, which leaves cooling saliva behind
- Sleeping in shady places
- Stretching out to let heat escape from their bodies

If your cat disappears for part of the day, don't worry - they've probably found the coolest spot in the house!





Rabbits: Sensitive to Heat

Rabbits can find hot weather difficult because their thick fur coats keep them warm. To stay cool, rabbits:

- Rest in the shade
- Spread out on cool surfaces
- Use their ears to help release body heat

Owners can help by providing fresh water and cool places to rest.

Small Pets and Birds

Hamsters, guinea pigs, and pet birds can also get too hot. Make sure they have:

- Fresh drinking water
- Shade from direct sunlight
- Good airflow around their enclosure

Never place cages in strong sunshine.

Summer Safety Tips

You can help your pet stay happy and healthy by:

- [ ] Providing fresh water every day
- [ ] Making sure they have plenty of shade
- [ ] Avoiding walks during the hottest part of the day
- [ ] Never leaving a pet in a parked car

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