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**WHO:** Central California Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**WHAT:** Extreme Heat Warning

**WHEN:** During extreme temperatures that occur for several days in a row

**WHERE:** The Central Valley

**WHY:** Remember that when it is hot for you, it is even hotter for them. Cats and dogs do not sweat through their skin. They cool themselves by panting or rapid breathing, which means animals must work hard to stay cool.

Too much heat can be extremely dangerous or even fatal. If your best friend has a shorter nose, like Persian cats and English Bulldogs, he is more susceptible to heatstroke than breeds with longer noses. This can occur very quickly for those breeds.

If your dog or cat begins very rapid, noisy breathing, has trouble swallowing, and looks very distressed, he could be having a heatstroke. ***Heatstroke is an emergency.*** Get the animal out of the heat. **\*If an animal is over heated don't shock their system by trying to cool them down too quickly, do it gradually.** Cool off your furry friend and then take him to the vet immediately. The best plan is to keep your cat and dog protected from the extreme summer heat.

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