But bulldogs DON’T. Most bulldogs are not acclimated to weather changes, either very cold to very hot temperatures. So, the best way to make sure your bulldog doesn’t get overheated is to practice prevention! While we humans may enjoy the warm weather that spring and summer bring, bulldogs usually do not fare well in hot and humid conditions. But you can still enjoy summer fun by taking a few precautions and preventative measures to ensure that you AND your bulldog have a safe summer! Bulldogs can die from overheating. Bulldogs do not even have to be active to succumb to overheating, so don’t kid yourself that just because your bulldog is just lying in the sun that he can’t become too hot. Bulldogs don’t know when enough is enough. So, make sure that any exercises, such as walks or play, are given early in the morning or late in the evening. Those sunny, Sunday afternoon strolls are great for humans, but don’t take your bulldog with you when it is very sunny or hot or humid. Also please don’t allow your bulldog to lie out in the sun for long periods, they do not know when they have had enough, and it doesn’t take long for their panting to become out of control. How do you know if your bulldog’s panting is out of control? Your bulldog’s panting will become more like heaving. This is the earliest sign that your bulldog is overheating; if the heaving becomes loud--to almost a roaring sound, your bulldog has gotten too hot and the outcome could be dangerous and even fatal.

\*\*Stages of overheating:

* Your bulldog will begin to "heave" as he pants
* Your bulldog will begin to "roar"-best described as sounding like severe asthma
* He will begin to look tired and distressed
* His tongue will be very floppy and very red in color
* His body temperature will rise (normal temp approx. 38.6)
* His airway will swell, and his throat become full of white foam (caused through the excessive panting)
* He will quickly become exhausted and will fighting for breath
* He could die

\*\*Steps you can take if your bulldog is overheating:

First and foremost, remain calm. If you get excited and upset, your bulldog will too.

* Lower The body temperature: Always ensure that you have ice on hand during the summer months. Pour cold water over your dog, especially around his head; rub ice around his head and under his tail (around his rectum). If possible, stand him in a cold bath and keep going with the ice until the breathing is less labored. If possible, stand him in a tub of cold water and pour/ shower the cold water over his body, especially his head until his breathing is much calmer. Dogs expel heat from their foot pads; therefore, standing him in cool water will enhance overall cooling.
* Clear the airway: Squirt some lemon juice (from one of those plastic lemon shaped bottles) into the back of his throat; he will hate you for it, but the lemon juice will quickly break up the excess foam and clear the throat. Do not allow him to drink a lot of water as this can cause him to vomit. \*
* Keep him calm: Once you have reduced his panic keep him in a quiet place and keep a close eye on him.
* If this doesn’t work, then you need to get to a vet as quickly as possible put a cold damp towel under him for the journey \*DON'T force an overheating dog to drink water. Offer the water, but if refused don't force the issue. You may use a syringe or a water bottle with a squeeze cap to place water, Gatorade or a glucose (sugar) solution in his mouth, but DO NOT SQUIRT IT DOWN HIS THROAT. He could suck it down the wrong tube, get it into his lungs and choke to death. He must lick it. Place it in the corner of his mouth/ on his tongue and ensure that he licks it.

Keep the following on hand:

* Plenty of ice
* Plastic lemon -Lemon Juice
* If you need to go out freeze some damp towels the day before and take with you together with both of the above items and plenty of cold water.
* Isopropyl Alcohol- In an emergency you can substitute 7UP for the lemon and packets of frozen veggies for the ice. Some people will offer Coke or Red Bull. If outdoors, find a horse trough, stream, river or pond to stand your dog in. At home, you can also use a large ice chest or cooler or your bathtub. Some people suggest saturating the bulldog’s back with isopropyl alcohol, as this will cool him fast. Be very cautious...alcohol burns, so don’t get any in