

Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Position Statement on proposed statutes or regulations requiring dogs to be housed inside human dwellings when ambient outside temperatures exceed specifically defined temperature limits

It is Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Board of Director's position that statutes or regulations requiring dogs to be housed inside human dwellings when ambient outside temperatures exceed specifically defined temperature limits are detrimental to the welfare of sled dogs and also to large numbers of working dogs, service dogs and companion dogs.

- Both the upper and lower critical temperature zones (CTZs) vary considerably between breeds of dogs, different coat types, age, general health, body condition and acclimatization of dogs. CTZs for the many breeds and types of dogs have not been scientifically established.¹
- Sled dogs with double-layered hair coats thrive at temperatures considerably lower than those of a typical human dwelling.² Scientific and experiential evidence indicates that acclimated double-coated dogs such as Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Alaskan Huskies, and Samoyeds normally housed outdoors may suffer from heat stress at temperatures generally considered comfortable by humans.^{3,4}
- Readily observable signs of temperature related stress are widely published and distributed online and in professional animal welfare and veterinary medical literature. Owners and competent animal control or law enforcement agents can use such signs to determine whether the welfare of an individual dog is at risk due to extremes in outdoor ambient temperatures. Signs of distress are sufficient to develop probable cause in cases where law enforcement action is necessary.

In the medical and veterinary medical communities, it is recognized that evidence-based medicine should be the standard of practice. It is Mush with P.R.I.D.E.'s position that sound scientific and experiential evidence should also be the standard of practice for legislation intended to promote the welfare of all dogs.

References:

- ¹ Mary Jordan, Amy E. Bauer, Judith L. Stella, Candace Croney, Department of Comparative Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2016, *Temperature Requirements for Dogs*, Purdue University Center for Animal Welfare Science, PDF, <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/VA/VA-16-W.pdf>
- ² National Research Council, 2011. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition*. National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.
- ³ Johnson, S.I., McMichael, M., White, G., 2006. Heatstroke in small animal medicine: a clinical practice review. *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care* 16(2), 112-119.
- ⁴ Mush with P.R.I.D.E., 2019. Poll of Experienced Dog Musers, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/398468697352924/permalink/547984275734698/>