

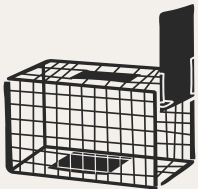


SUMMER WEATHER TIPS FOR COMMUNITY CATS

Rising temperatures means special considerations for cat care -especially Stray and Feral felines.

FOOD:

- Don't leave food out for too long. After about 30 minutes, bugs will start to show up. Picking up uneaten food after roughly 45 minutes helps prevent that.
- Feed cats dry food in the summer it attracts fewer insects. But if you give wet food, add water to keep it from drying out, or be sure to pick it up within 45 minutes
- Invest in an ant-proof bowl.
- You can create your own "ant barrier" by surrounding the bowl with baking soda or a line of food-grade diatomaceous earth without chemical additives.



TRAPPING (TNR):

- If you perform Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) during the summer, be extra careful and take the extreme heat into account.
- Once cats are trapped, keep them in the shade with a trap cover for a limited time only and transfer to an air-conditioned space ASAP. **Do not** leave cats in traps - just like people, they can have a deadly heat stroke.
- **Never** leave cats in a car while trapping.
- Leave traps on grass instead of a heat-absorbing surface. Don't place traps on surfaces that get extremely hot from the sun, such as asphalt. The metal trap can absorb the heat and burn the cats' paws.



WATER:

- Extra water is essential in hot weather. Too much water is better than not enough.
- Place water bowls in shaded areas. Feeding stations keep water out of the sun and they're easy to build!
- Use a bowl that is narrow but deep. This reduces the bowl's surface area and slows evaporation.
- Drop a few ice cubes into the water bowl (if the kitty doesn't mind ice).
- Pet water fountains provide a constant stream of water, inspiring cats to drink even more.



SHELTER:

- Provide easy access to shaded places, like under a deck.
- Build an outdoor cat shelter on the cheap with supplies found at any hardware store.
- Check out some of the many easy DIY outdoor cat shelters here.



HEATSTROKE IN CATS:

- Heatstroke is characterized by an increase in body temperature and the inability of the body to regulate temperature.
- In severe cases, your pet's organs can begin to shut down due to increased body temperature and the condition can be life-threatening.
- Symptoms may include: Panting/drooling; sweating from paws; high temperature; red tongue; vomiting and diarrhea; rapid pulse/breathing; staggering/dizziness; lethargy/weakness; muscle tremors; shock; seizures; collapse/coma.
- If your cat is conscious and heatstroke is suspected, move your cat immediately to a cool environment and give them access to water. Do not force your cat to drink water as this could result in choking. **Consult a veterinarian ASAP.**