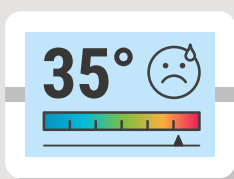




## KEEPING YOUR FURRY FRIENDS COOL THIS SUMMER

Climate pollution driven by the burning of coal, oil and gas is causing more days of extreme heat as well as longer, hotter and more frequent heatwaves in Australia. Heatwaves are dangerous weather events that can cause serious illness and death to humans – and they can threaten the lives of our pets and wildlife too.



### SOME HOT FACTS

- Climate pollution is rapidly turning up the heat, with 2024 set to become the hottest year ever recorded.
- The past 10 years (2014-2024) are all among the hottest 10 years on record.
- About a third of all summer heat-related deaths can be attributed to climate change.
- Our future is still in our hands: by scaling up clean energy like solar and wind we can move beyond fossil fuels, and limit the frequency and intensity of future heatwaves.
- Now is the time for all levels of government to accelerate their efforts to slash climate pollution further and faster, and protect more Australians from avoidable escalations in heatwaves.

While us humans can escape dangerous heat to air conditioned spaces or strip off to cool down, it is not possible for domestic pets and surrounding wildlife to do the same.

Just like us, many animals can be affected by heat stress or heat stroke, and it's old and young animals that are often the most vulnerable. However, while we sweat to cool off, dogs and cats can only release heat through areas not covered by fur, mostly their paws or tongues.

Here's how to keep yourself, your loved ones and your furry friends safe and cool during extreme heat.

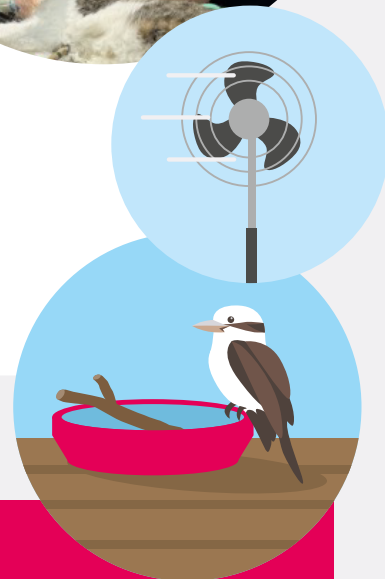
### Checklist

- Get prepared before a heatwave hits
- Heat-proof your home
- Keep yourself and your loved ones safe during a heatwave

## Ghundi - Gowrie, NSW. Vet for 33 years.

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"Is your pet able to sweat?"

Our beloved dogs and cats are not able to sweat, making them more susceptible to overheating in extreme heat (and dogs, in particular, are at an elevated risk, as cats will seek out cool spots). If you fear that your dog is overheated, you can actively cool them down with cold water or a fan. Make sure you don't cool them down too quickly which would trap the heat in the middle of the body. My biggest tip is to avoid heat altogether - keep them inside and avoid any exercise during the hot part of the day. If you do suspect your dog is overheated, please take your pet to the vet immediately. When we intervene early, many dogs can be treated, but multi-organ failure is something I sadly see too often."



### HOW TO KEEP YOUR PETS COOL

- ✓ **Timing is everything.** Take early morning or evening walks and avoid walking on hot surfaces (for example, by sticking to grassy areas). If it's uncomfortable for you to walk barefoot then it will be painful for them too!
- ✓ **Stick together.** Never leave your pets alone in a parked car. It takes under 10 minutes for a car to reach lethal temperatures, even when parked in shaded areas with the windows open.
- ✓ **Food, water, shade.** If you are heading to work on a hot day, make sure your pets have plenty of water and shade. If you need to be inside in front of the air conditioning, so do they! And, if you're spending the day with your pet and it's a scorcher, you can set up a small paddling pool or whip up some refrigerated snacks.
- ✓ **Check in.** Be aware of the signs of heat stroke in dogs, like excessive panting, glazed eyes, vomiting or weakness. If your animal is displaying these signs, consider taking your pet to the vet immediately.

### HOW TO LOOK OUT FOR WILDLIFE

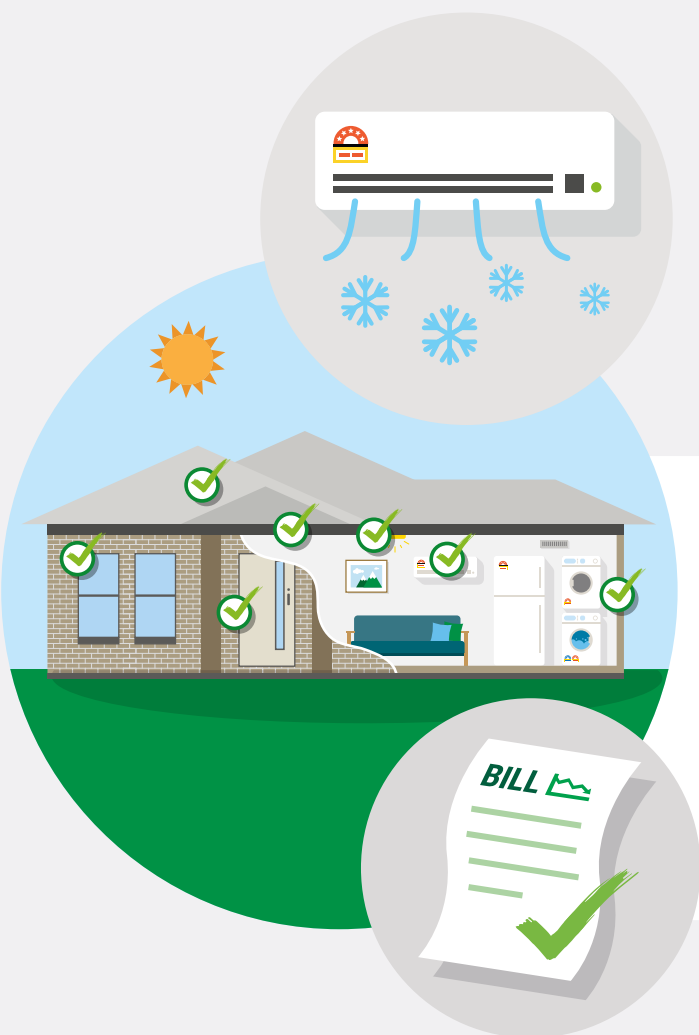
- ✓ **Help them hydrate.** Leave shallow dishes of water in shaded areas for wildlife. Place some dishes in trees or elevated spots to protect animals from predators. Never pour water into an animals' mouth – it can cause distress and physical harm. Instead, provide cool water in a bowl and allow them to lap from it.
- ✓ **Keep your pets inside.** Physically separating your pets from wildlife keeps pets safe from the heat while also allowing native animals to access water safely.
- ✓ **Keep an eye out when you're on the move.** If you find animals in distress, contact a wildlife rescue group or vet for advice. Pop an emergency kit with water, a towel, and a box in your car in case you encounter injured wildlife.
- ✓ **Pack some fruity snacks.** During heatwaves or after habitat loss, hungry wildlife may seek food in backyards. Consider sharing some fruit from your trees and removing netting to help species like flying foxes thrive.

## WHAT TO DO BEFORE IT GETS UNBEARABLY HOT

- ✓ **Have a working fan or air-conditioner.** If you don't have fans or air-conditioning, get yourself set up before a heatwave hits - they are always the first products that sell out when it gets unbearably hot!
- ✓ **Stock up now.** If a heatwave is forecast, start preparing containers of ice in your freezer and stock up on food, water and medicines so you don't have to go out in the heat.
- ✓ **Be prepared for a power failure.** In case of a power failure, ensure you have a working torch, fully-charged mobile phone and portable charger, plenty of drinking water and non-perishable food available, a battery-operated fan and essential medication on hand.

## BE CHILL AT HOME. SOME HEAT-PROOF HOME HACKS TO PROTECT YOUR PETS

- ✓ **Draught proof your home.** Check your windows, doors and floors for gaps, and seal them. There are practical and affordable ways to prevent airflow, like using rolled up towels under door cracks or sealant strips around door frames. For windows and flooring, patch gaps with putty or sealer.
- ✓ **Create external shade.** Use umbrellas, awnings, or trees to shade your home. External shading of windows can block up to 90% of unwanted heat gain.
- ✓ **Create internal shade.** Close windows, curtains and blinds during the day as well as closing off spaces that are not in use. You can use blackout curtains with white backing, shade cloth or bamboo blinds to keep the heat out.
- ✓ **Leverage cooler temperatures.** Consider opening the windows during early morning to allow cool air inside. Or, if there is a cool change on a hot day, open all windows to create cross-ventilation.
- ✓ **Insulate.** If possible, install insulation in your ceiling, floor and walls to increase energy efficiency in your home. You can also install double-glazed or secondary-glazed windows, or use solar blinds, to keep the heat out.



### Benefits of an energy efficient home

- Better temperature control
- A healthier and more liveable home for you and your family
- Saves you hundreds of dollars energy bills and reduces your household emissions



## Vic & Poppy - Northcote, Vic

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"To help keep Poppy the puppy cool, I make sure to take her out for a walk in the early morning or evening, so that her paws don't burn on the hot asphalt. I also pop ice cubes in her water, make frozen treats for her to chow down on and have a cooling mat for her to lie on"

### HOW TO GET HELP FOR YOUR FURRY FRIENDS

**NSW:** [WIRES](#) 1300 094 737

**VIC:** [Wildlife Victoria](#) (03) 8400 7300

**QLD:** [RSPCA QLD](#) 1300 ANIMAL

**SA:** [Fauna Rescue of SA inc](#) 08 8289 0896

**WA:** [Wildcare WA](#) (08) 9474 9055

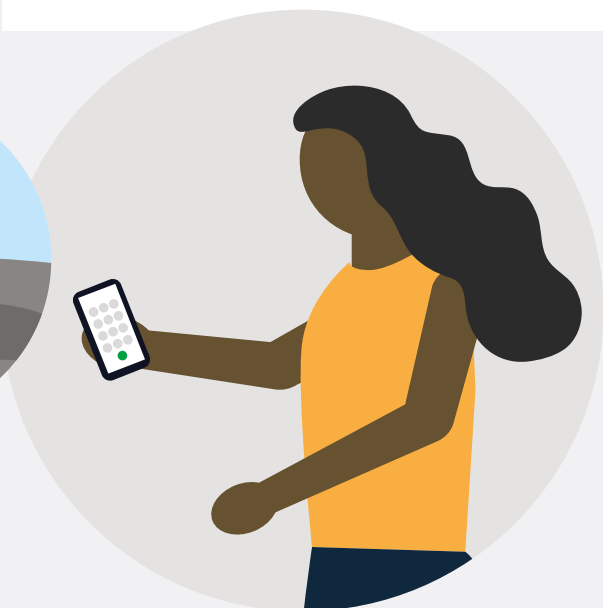
**NT:** [Wildcare NT](#) 08 8996 121

**TAS:** [Bonorong Wildlife Hospital and Rescue](#)  
0447 264 625

**ACT:** [ACT Wildlife](#) 0432 300 033

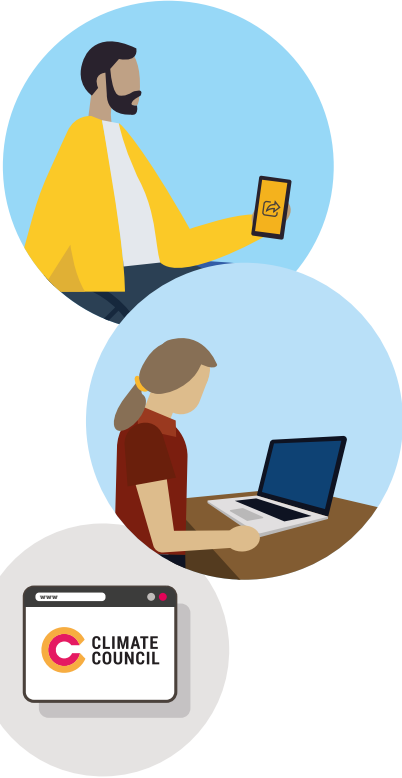
### WHERE TO GET HELP

- In an emergency, call triple zero (000)
- Your GP (doctor)  
if you, or someone you know, may be suffering from a heat-related illness
- NURSE-ON-CALL  
1300 60 60 24 for expert health information and advice 24-hours, 7 days
- Lifeline Australia  
13 11 14 – support for people in crises



## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

We know that the best way to turn down the heat is to rapidly cut climate pollution. Here are some things you can do to help:



All Australians are sweltering through hotter days and nights due to climate change, and the best way to turn down the heat is to rapidly cut carbon pollution.

Climate Council is a courageous catalyst propelling Australia towards necessary and effective solutions to climate change. Here are some things you can do to help:

- **Stay in the know.** Keep up to date with the latest climate news and developments by [signing up to our mailing list](#).
- **Share content on social media.** There are so many incredible climate solutions you can share on your social media as a great way to keep climate fixes on the agenda. Connect with us on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [TikTok](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for daily updates.
- **Have a conversation.** Chatting with your friends and family about climate change, its impacts and its solutions is a powerful way to inspire others to engage. [Here is a guide](#) for how to explain climate and weather (like heatwaves).
- **Email your MP.** Contacting your Member of Parliament will help strengthen the voice for climate action by letting politicians know that Australians are serious about cutting climate pollution. [Check out our handy guide](#) for how you can write an effective letter to your MP.
- **Donate to the Climate Council.** Our supporters are critical to ensuring our work, focussed on creating the society-wide changes we need to end climate pollution and keep our kids safe, can continue. So, if you haven't already, consider helping power us by [starting a regular gift today](#).



### Zerene & Poppy – Western Sydney, NSW

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"To keep my cat Pickle cool, I top up her water regularly, offer cold fruity treats like watermelon, let her relax on cool tiles or by the fan, and brush her regularly to lighten her coat. I also watch for heat stress—simple, effective steps to ensure her comfort during Western Sydney's scorching summers"

