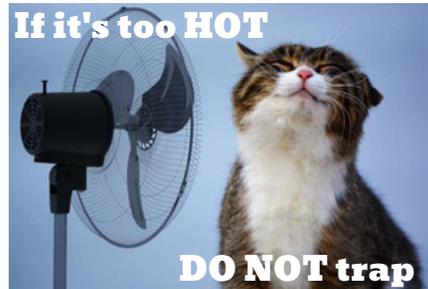


Summer Safety tips for cats



Sun City Cats approach is to Never leave a trap unattended but also NEVER trap in these extreme temperatures. If you perform Trap-Neuter-Return(TNR) during the summer, take the extreme heat into account.

- Do not leave cats in traps-they can get heat stroke just like people.
 - Once the cat is trapped, immediately place her in an air conditioned space.
 - Never leave cats in a car while trapping.
 - Do not place traps on surfaces that get extremely hot from the sun, such as asphalt. The metal can absorb the heat and burn the cat's paws.
- Sun City Cats recommends not to trap if the temperature is above 85 degrees, wait until it is cooler. It's more feasible at night but the cats should be brought in immediately into a climate controlled area.

Remember, cats in traps are already stressed, adding the stress of heat can be deadly!



Is essential in this heat!

Consider putting out extra bowls of water and remember to clean and replenish as necessary. If you find water bowls heating up too fast, try adding ice cubes to the water or placing them in shaded areas to keep them cooler.

- Do not use metal bowls, A bowl with less surface area will reduce the evaporation rate as well, so use a bowl that is narrow, but deep.



Food

Don't leave food out for too long. Picking up uneaten food after roughly 45 minutes helps prevent unwanted bugs from showing up.

- Feeding dry cat food in the summer months attracts fewer insects. But if you give wet food, add a little water to help it from drying out, it has the added benefit of providing extra hydration for the cats.
- Invest in an ant proof bowl.

You can create your own "ant barrier" by surrounding the bowl with baking soda or FOOD GRADE Diatomaceous Earth without chemical additives. (this must be reapplied if the area gets wet.) **Note that diatomaceous earth sold for swimming pool filters is not safe to use for this purpose.**

Create your own "ant barrier" bowl

Place the food bowl in a baking dish, and then fill the dish with just enough water to create a moat around the food bowl so that ants can't access the food. Clean the dish daily and add more water.



Shade

Reduce the chance of sunburn

Don't forget cats are susceptible to sunburn, particularly those with white ears and noses. This can lead to painful blistering and sores, and long-term exposure can lead to skin cancer.

White cats can become sunburned if they lay in the sun too long. Even if they're indoor cats, they can get sunburned through a sunny window.

Ensure there's a shaded spot in your garden. If you are caring for outdoor cat(s) and there are no naturally occurring shady spots in your garden, create one by placing some cloth or cardboard over an area to keep the sun out. Also make sure you check outdoor buildings like sheds, greenhouses, and garages before shutting them as cats often get locked in accidentally overnight.

A simple trick to help the kitties stay cool is to stick an ice pack inside a sock and place it into the retreat underneath a towel for an added cooling effect.