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Dogs Die from Heat Distress in Separate Cruelty Cases After They Were Left Outside in Blistering Heat

PHOTO WARNING: link to images from the scene:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ege8go3tclvfjuv/AABj2HA5IE6d9_5lsc_vpEtAa?dl=0

HOUSTON (June 14, 2022) – The Houston SPCA and Harris County Constable Precinct 1 are investigating two separate cases of animal cruelty after two dogs died from heat distress late yesterday evening in Northwest Houston and the other in Southeast Houston after they were both left outside in the sweltering heat with no access to water, food or shade. One of the dog’s body temperature registered over 104 degrees at the scene. Unfortunately, the Houston SPCA anticipates more of these types of calls, so the rescue and protection organization is putting out an ***urgent reminder to pet owners:***

- Bring your pets inside during extreme temperatures. If it’s too hot for you, it’s too hot for them.
- Know where your pets are during the heat of the day. As the sun shifts, the shade may no longer be adequate.
- Check on them often. Water can evaporate when it’s hot outside, and pets can tip over water bowls, leaving them without proper hydration.
- If you see an animal in distress, please call the Houston SPCA at 713-869-7722 immediately.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE IN PETS

- Heavy panting
- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Uncoordinated movements, lethargic

Houston SPCA Chief Veterinarian Dr. Roberta Westbrook recommends removing the pet out of the heat first before offering cool, not cold water; wiping them down with a damp towel and contacting your veterinarian immediately.

“Leaving your pet outside can have devastating consequences as we have seen with these horrific cases,” said Dr. Roberta Westbrook, Chief Veterinarian at the Houston SPCA. “If you plan on leaving your home, please bring your pet inside to ensure their safety or at least make arrangements to make sure they will have adequate food, water and shade to help regulate their body temperature,” Westbrook added.

To report animal cruelty or an animal in distress, please call 713-869-SPCA (7722).

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