

# Pet Summer Proof Fun

Petplan and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home ask: how summer-safe is your pet?

To make sure your pet keeps cool and heat free this summer, Petplan and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home have created a Summer Proof Fun (SPF) scale as part of a Summer Health Campaign. The scale helps you classify your pet's risk to absorbing heat in the summer sun. **Simply complete steps 1-4, adding together your score ratings to reveal your pet's total SPF score in step 5....**

## 1 Select coat colour

- Black  
SCORE RATING: **6**
- Brown  
SCORE RATING: **5**
- Mixed Dark  
SCORE RATING: **4**
- Mixed Light  
SCORE RATING: **3**
- Ginger / Grey  
SCORE RATING: **2**
- White / Blonde  
SCORE RATING: **1**



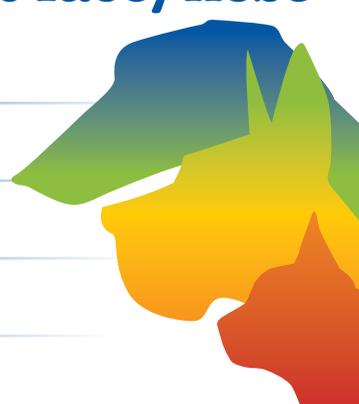
## 2 Select coat type

- Shaggy  
(E.g. IRISH WATER SPANIEL) SCORE RATING: **5**
- Low moult  
(E.g. LABRADOODLE / DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR CATS) SCORE RATING: **4**
- Long  
(E.g. GOLDEN RETRIEVER / PERSIAN CATS) SCORE RATING: **3**
- Medium  
(E.g. LABRADOR) SCORE RATING: **2**
- Short  
(E.g. BOXER, GREAT DANE, SPHINX CATS) SCORE RATING: **1**



## 3 Select length of Pet's face/nose

- VERY SHORT  
(E.g. PERSIAN CATS) SCORE RATING: **5**
- QUITE SHORT  
(E.g. CAVELIER/LHAPSA) SCORE RATING: **4**
- NORMAL LENGTH  
(E.g. SPRINGER SPANIEL) SCORE RATING: **3**
- QUITE LONG BUT NOT VERY  
(E.g. COLLIE) SCORE RATING: **2**
- EXTRA LONG  
(E.g. ORIENTAL CATS) SCORE RATING: **1**



## 4 Select pet age

- 11+ years  
SCORE RATING: **5**
- 8-10 years  
SCORE RATING: **4**
- Puppy or kitten (less than a year)  
SCORE RATING: **3**
- 4-7 years  
SCORE RATING: **2**
- 1-3 years  
SCORE RATING: **1**



## 5 Add together your score rating

**4-8: Lower Risk**

It's likely that your pet is very light to grey/ginger in colour with a short to medium coat. Breeds such as Whippet commonly fall into this group.

- Always ensure that your pet has sufficient fresh water
- If your pet is indoors in hot weather ensure that they have an unlimited supply of fresh water and perhaps access to a fan
- Check your pet's feet for any lurking grass seeds
- For white pets, while risk of overheating is low they are at risk of sunburn so be sure to apply pet friendly sun cream to sensitive areas

**9-13: Medium Risk**

It's likely that your pet has a mixed coat of light to dark shades with a medium to long coat. Breeds such as yellow Labrador commonly fall into this group.

- Keep to the shade and areas where pets can keep cool at all times
- Exercise your pet at the cooler times of the day, especially in the early morning
- If your pet is excessively scratching they may have a skin irritation caused by seasonal allergies. Seek your vet's advice for the right medication

**14-21: High Risk**

It's likely that your pet is darker coloured, with a heavier or non-shedding coat. Breeds such as black Newfoundland commonly fall into this group.

- Cool your pet down by soaking it with a hose
- Your pet may enjoy swimming or playing water games to keep cool
- Avoid walking shaggy to long-haired pets in long grass during the peak summer months
- Consider clipping the hair on your dog's or cat's feet which can trap grass seeds

## ! Handy hint for all pets....

**NEVER** leave your pet in the car for any length of time in hot weather, as they are at great risk of over-heating and this may prove fatal. If your pet does have to travel in the car for a short distance, ensure that the car is sufficiently ventilated and water is available if required.

**REMEMBER** it is important to follow the same caution with your pets as yourself when it comes to sun exposure. Pets with white & light fur are more susceptible to burning so remember to use plenty of sunscreen, particularly applying to sensitive areas such as tips of ears, nose and groin that typically have sparse hair coverage and thinner skin. Make sure the sunscreen you use is designed especially for your pet - sunscreen for humans can irritate your pets intestine if licked off.

## Additional tips to help keep your pet safe and happy this summer

- Do not let your pet off the lead immediately in unfamiliar areas, particularly on cliffs and beaches as your dog may run off the end of an incline or get into deep water
- If your dog has a grass allergy, walk your dog on paved surfaces and avoid areas with long grass during the peak months June to August
- Make sure your pet is up to date with their anti-parasite medication
- Do not give human anti-histamines without seeking your vet's advice
- Discourage young pets from chasing wasps / bees
- Use a veterinary recommended tick prevention product for those summer months when ticks are more prevalent and avoid walking in woodlands, long grasses or moors