

Hot Weather Policy

NDDAC Club follows guidelines from The Royal Kennel Club (extract below) to provide guidance on offering training during warmer weather.

Emphasis, is of course at all times, on the handler to decide whether it is safe for their dog to train.

The Royal Kennel Club and veterinary organizations classify outdoor temperatures into specific risk zones for dogs, warning that conditions above 19°C (66°F) require extra caution, and temperatures exceeding 24°C (75°F) carry high risks of heatstroke.

The temperature risk zones are broken down as follows:

- **Below 12°C (53°F): Safe & Ideal**
Perfect walking weather, though very small, elderly, or thin-coated dogs may require a coat.
- **12°C – 19°C (53°F – 66°F): Generally Safe**
Safe for most dogs, but monitor for overheating if they are engaging in strenuous activity or running.
- **20°C – 23°C (68°F – 73°F): Caution**
Risk begins to rise. Keep walks short, stick to shaded areas, and always carry fresh water.
- **24°C – 27°C (75°F – 80°F): Dangerous**
The risk of heatstroke increases significantly. Only go out if absolutely necessary, make it a quick stroll in the shade, and avoid the midday sun.
- **Above 27°C (80°F): Extreme Danger/No-Go Zone**
It is too dangerous to walk your dog. Exercise and outdoor activity should be avoided entirely.

The Royal Kennel Club advises that dogs should ideally only be walked during the early morning (before 8 AM) or late evening (after 8 PM) during heatwaves.

Factors That Increase Risk

Always consider your dog's specific vulnerabilities, as the temperature thresholds are much lower for the following:

- **Breed:** Brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds like Pugs, Bulldogs, and French Bulldogs struggle to lose heat efficiently.
- **Coat:** Dark-coated, long-haired, or overweight dogs retain more heat.
- **Age:** Very young puppies and older senior dogs have more difficulty regulating their body temperature.

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