



Pets & Sun



Did you know that pets can get sunburns, too?

Yes, pets can get sun burns, just like us. Pets with un-pigmented and thin, white or light colored coats are at highest risk. Breeds that are predisposed to sunburns include white Domestic Short-haired cats, white Boxers and Bull Terriers, Dalmatians, Beagles and German Short-haired pointers. Any dog with thin, light-colored hair is at risk, including pets with a summer hair-cut or shave. Repeated sun exposure can lead to severe dermatologic problems and skin cancer, just like in humans.

How can I prevent a sun burn?

Sun block can and should be applied to pets at risk. Choose a sun block that has at least SPF 15-30, UVA and UVB filters and is safe for children. Sun block should be massaged into exposed areas until absorbed. For white cats this is the ear tips. For dogs this may be the top of the nose, ears, sides of the muzzle, belly and inner thighs. A dog sun block spray is available at doggles.com. Try to avoid prolonged sun exposure from 10am until 4 pm. If you notice any changes to the skin that has had sun exposure, such as redness or crusting, seek veterinary care.