



NASSAU HUMANE SOCIETY



## Emergency Reference Sheet

### Signs a Dog is in Heat Distress

If you see these signs, act immediately:

1. Excessive Panting
2. Bright Red, Blue, or Pale Gums/Tongue
3. Drooling Thick, Sticky Saliva
4. Disorientation, Wobbling, or Stumbling
5. Collapse or Inability to Stand
6. Hot Body to the Touch
7. Rapid Heart Rate

#### Here is what to do:

- Move the dog to shade or air conditioning immediately.
- Offer cool, not ice-cold, water.
- Cool the dog with cool, wet towels placed on the neck, armpits, and paws.
- Use fan or AC airflow, but do not put AC directly on the dog.
- Never use ice water or submerge the dog.
- Call the shelter right away.
- If the dog is collapsing, unresponsive, or vomiting repeatedly, drive back to the shelter immediately.

### When to Return the Dog to the Shelter Immediately

Ensuring a dog's health and safety is paramount during a Dog Day Out. If any of the following situations occur, return the dog to the shelter without delay:

1. **Heat Distress**
2. **Vomiting**
3. **Injury**
4. **Facial Swelling**
5. **Limping**
6. **Breathing Issues**
7. **Seizures**

### What to Do if a Dog Gets Loose During a Dog Day Out

Losing hold of a dog can be scary, but staying calm and acting quickly helps ensure the best outcome.

1. **Stay Calm and Don't Chase**
  - Do not run after the dog. Chasing can cause the dog to flee farther.
  - Take a breath and keep movements slow and relaxed.
  - Avoid yelling the dog's name repeatedly.
2. **Try to Regain the Dog Safely**
  - Use a happy, calm voice.
  - Crouch down sideways and encourage the dog to come to you.

- If you have high-value treats, toss them on the ground rather than holding them out.
- If the dog approaches, gently step on the leash or clip a backup leash if available.
- 3. **Secure the Area if Possible**
  - If the dog is in a park or enclosed area, close gates if it can be done safely.
  - Ask nearby people to stand still and avoid approaching the dog.
- 4. **Contact the Shelter Immediately**
- 5. Call the shelter right away if:
  - The dog runs out of sight
  - You cannot safely regain control within a few minutes
- 6. Provide:
  - Your exact location
  - The dog's name, description, and harness/collar info
  - Direction the dog was last seen running
- 7. The shelter will coordinate next steps and provide guidance. Do not delay this call.
- 8. **Post on Local Social Media**
  - Share a photo of the dog, the location where it was last seen, and the shelter's contact number.
  - Encourage friends and community members to share the post to increase visibility.

## What to Do if a Dog Bite Occurs

Handling a dog bite can be stressful, but it's important to follow these steps to ensure everyone's safety and comply with legal requirements.

1. **Inform the Shelter Immediately**
  - Contact the shelter as soon as possible to report the bite.
  - Return the dog to the shelter immediately for assessment and quarantine as required.
2. **Gather Information if a Stranger is Bitten**
  - Politely ask the individual for their contact details, including name, phone number, and email.
  - Ensure you document the incident thoroughly, noting the events leading up to the bite, the exact location, and the severity of the bite.
  - If possible, take a clear picture of the bite wound to assist with documentation.
3. **Legal and Documentation Requirements**
  - Understand that any bite breaking the skin must be reported to local health authorities as required by law.
  - The shelter will handle the necessary paperwork, but your detailed account of the incident is crucial.
4. **Support the Bitten Person**
  - Be empathetic and supportive to the individual affected by the bite.
  - Ensure they have all the information they need and provide reassurance that the situation is being handled appropriately.

By following these steps, you help protect the well-being of both the person bitten and the dog involved, while ensuring compliance with legal obligations.

## Protecting Your Dog's Paws in Florida's Heat

Florida's temperatures can soar, making its pavements and sandy beaches deceptively dangerous for our furry friends. The intense heat can cause the ground to become so hot that it can blister a dog's sensitive paw pads. As a rule of thumb: "Cook eggs, not paws." This means if you can't hold the back of your hand on the ground for more than three seconds, it's too hot for your dog to walk on. Always check the temperature of the ground before heading out, and consider walking your dog during cooler times of the day or using protective paw gear to prevent burns. Your dog's comfort and safety come first!

## Shelter Contact Information

**Shelter Name:** Nassau Humane Society

**Emergency Contact Number:** 904-321-1647

**Number for Dispatch** (call if no one answers from the shelter): 904-694-2214

**Shelter Address:** 639 Airport Road, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

