

Practical tips for cooling animals on hot summer days

Build sheds out of brick or stone as these materials heat up slower than wood. If this is not possible then ensure that your animal's shed or hutch is placed in a shady position.

Provide lots of ventilation but ensure that this will not lead to draughts when the temperature drops

Paint the hutch or shed white to reflect the heat

Encourage shrubs and climbers to grow over your hutch or shed

In very hot weather, spray water onto the outside of the hutch or shed to reduce the temperature quickly

Use a large umbrella or parasol to shade the hutch or shed

Cold bricks and hot water bottles filled with cold water can be covered with a towel and placed under the bedding to cool the animal down

Offer water to animals at all times, particularly during shows

Keep indoor hutches and cages away from radiators and out of sunlight

Stop regularly on long journeys and make sure that carrying boxes are placed in cool areas of the car

If you are worried about your animal, seek immediate veterinary advice

Ferrets in Summer Hot Tips!



You've doubtless heard the old adage – "horses sweat, men perspire but ladies only glow!" Well, turn that on its head and think of your ferrets who can neither, sweat, perspire or glow!

Indeed, they do not have a very efficient body cooling system at all and react badly and quickly to too much heat.

Death from heat stroke is a very real possibility and as in all things prevention is much better than cure.

Heat exhaustion can occur in temperatures not uncommon in a sunny patch of the garden, or in the home when sun shines into a room through the glass in the window.

Worse still in a carry-box, garden shed or vehicle temperatures can rise quickly to dangerous levels even in spring and autumn. If left untreated your ferret may well collapse, pass into a coma and die.

The solution is simple – you must keep your ferret out of hot sun, provide shade, fresh air and lots of large shallow water bowls for paddling. Try throwing a few sultanas into the water and your ferret will have great fun retrieving his treats whilst keeping cool at the same time. A small dish of ice cream as a rare treat is likely to be enjoyed thoroughly too!

Remember that the sun does not stay in the same place all day so if the hutch or cage is in the shade in the morning it might well be in full sun by mid-day. Indoors a fan can be helpful to circulate

the air or ensure that the ferret is placed away where he can take advantage of any passing cool breeze.

On a hot day your ferret will probably enjoy being sprayed with a mister such as you might use to spray your house plants. Make sure the water is cool but not icy to avoid shock – some will reward you with the enchanting ferret dance, prancing sideways mouths open in ecstasy!

Hopefully these simple measure will ensure that your ferret copes well with hot summer days. If all fails and your ferret falls victim to heatstroke you must act promptly to lower his body temperature. Watch carefully for the first warning signs to minimise the problem.

A ferret suffering from heat stroke will be in obvious distress, stretched out, lethargic and panting heavily. Quickly move the affected ferret to a cooler place with a steady passage of cool air. Roll him in a shallow dish of cool – not cold - water or spray his coat with the mister. Place him on a towel and monitor him closely, repeating the procedure if necessary.

It is vital to ensure that the ferret's head is kept cool as heat stroke can cause brain death.

In severe cases, if your ferret does not recover quickly or you have any other cause for concern you should seek veterinary advice at the earliest opportunity.

Anne Robinson MIPR, Secretary - Droitwich Ferret Welfare
Visit the website at www.droitwichferretwelfare.co.uk