

EMERGENCY TREATMENT

If your cat is showing signs of heat stroke, she's going to require prompt emergency care. While making arrangements to transport the animal to a veterinarian as quickly as possible, you should try one or a combination of the following techniques:

Wipe the cat's body with a cool, wet rag. (Do not, however, immerse the animal in cold water!) Apply ice to its head and inner thighs. Move the cat to an air-conditioned room or to a room with a fan.

Monitor the cat's temperature constantly to assess whether efforts to lower its body temperature are succeeding. (To be prepared for such an eventuality, ask your veterinarian to teach you how to do this using a rectal thermometer. An instructional video on taking a cat's temperature, produced by Cornell's Feline Health Center, is available online at <http://felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu>).

When the cat's temperature appears to be approaching normal, cease the aggressive cooling measures, which, if excessive, could result in a dangerously low body temperature (hypothermia).

The cat should then be rushed to a veterinary clinic immediately for a thorough examination and any additional professional care that might be needed. This may entail, for example, intravenous fluid therapy to help restore circulation and correct chemical imbalances.