

# Hot Pavement & Paws

*by Andrea Craun*

The temperature outside and the temperature of the pavement in the sun can be very different. The pads on the bottom of a dog's feet are not much different from the bottom of your feet. Therefore, if the pavement is too hot for your feet, it's too hot for your dog's feet. If you notice that your dog is limping or refusing to walk the pavement might be too hot.

To check the temperature of the pavement, place the back of your hand on it and hold it there for 11 seconds. If it is uncomfortable for you to hold your skin there, you shouldn't make your dog walk on it. You can also try walking on it yourself.



If you walk your dog on pavement, you should keep an eye on their feet. Signs of burnt pads include blisters or redness, limping, refusal to walk, loose flaps of skin, changes in the pads color, licking or chewing at the feet.

In general you shouldn't walk your dog on pavement, sand, or metal surfaces if it is hot outside. If your dog's pads are sensitive you should carry them over hot surfaces or have them wear booties when they go for a walk.

Minor burns can be cleaned and bandaged loosely. For serious burns, get your dog to the vet immediately. If you find an animal with injured paw pads, call your vet immediately!