

Which cats are most vulnerable to sunburn?

White or pale-coloured cats, cats that have unpigmented white noses or ears, and those with sparse hair on their ears, are most vulnerable because they have little pigment or hair to protect them from the sun's harmful rays.

Prevention is very important.

Tips to keep cats safe in the sun:

- keep pet cats indoors when the sun is at its hottest, typically between 10am and 3pm. Encourage your cat to stay indoors by providing them with everything they need, such as litter trays, food and water bowls, toys, and comfy resting places in suitable places inside the house
- speak to a vet about a suitable sunscreen for pet cats
- provide plenty of shade for pet cats when they are outdoors, such as providing a Cats Protection Hide & Sleep®, large cardboard boxes or plant plots placed close together
- there is always a risk of your cat becoming dehydrated too so always provide an outdoor water source
- to stop cats feeling overheated, place a plastic bottle with frozen water inside a towel and place it in an area that the cat frequently visits

Signs your cat may have been exposed to too much sun:

Redness, crusting or sores on the skin, especially on any white areas, are indications that your cat has had too much sun. At the first sign of these, seek veterinary advice promptly.

Sun exposure usually requires symptomatic treatment, such as pain relief, topical creams and monitoring. However, sunburn can progress to skin cancer, for which surgery is often the most successful treatment, although other options such as radiotherapy, photodynamic therapy, cryosurgery or topical creams may be recommended. Remember, prevention is better than cure.



www.cats.org.uk