



**May 24, 2018**

**Dear Oona,**

**My human insists I go jogging with him. He said we look cool together. We live in Houston, Texas and it's 88 outside. It's hot! I'm suffering. What do I do?**

**Duke**

**Dear Duke,**

**Your human is a dangerous maniac. He's going to kill you. Leave home**

**immediately.**

**If abandoning your crazy person is too extreme for you, lie down and do not budge. Duke, you're an Irish Wolfhound. What's he going to do? Jog down a hot street dragging 160 pounds of dead weight on a leash? It's going to seriously cramp his coolness factor, much less his hammies.**

**Also, may I suggest that the next time he comes strutting out in his speedos that you go get him a fur coat or winter parka to put on, too? Because clearly he does not understand what's going on here. He can sweat. He probably has his own bottle of water. You do not sweat. You *do* have fur coat. In that kind of heat you're going to get heat stroke and die. Seriously.**

This time of year, most Irish Wolfhound owners switch to early morning or evening walks, Duke. When it turns 70 degrees, I walk to the nearest shade tree and plop down. Drives my old guy crazy because he says it's finally warm enough to walk without a coat. But I can't take *mine* off. So we cool our heels until I'm ready to go on. The old guy doesn't walk me until dark after that.

Your lunatic is probably jogging on asphalt or concrete, too, huh. He has fancy running shoes. You're barefooted. He has no idea how hot the pavement is or if it's burning your feet. If he cared, he'd put the palm of his hand down on the pavement and check it first.

Duke, if your tongue and ears start turning bright red, get water and shade immediately and do *not* walk another step. You're close to heat stroke. Surely this nutjob knows better than to leave you in a parked car in this heat...

Oh, and don't let him tell you he's going to *shave* you to keep you cool, either. Not only will it ruin your beautiful coat, it won't help at all. Irish Wolfhounds, like, many dogs, have double coats, a shorter denser coat and a longer, more wiry layer. We have our longer second coat for protection from thistles, snow and rain, but also as *insulation*. It actually keeps heat off our skin.

Some wolfhounds enjoy going for a lope with their humans. But smart humans condition us to it. But smart humans know they can only condition us to heat so far. And then nature takes over. And the smart ones keep us cool and safe. Duke, your human is not one of them. Take action now!

Hot Oona