

### Welcome

Hope this finds everyone well and enjoying the summer to the best of your ability regardless of the strange circumstances. This month's newsletter we will share some summer safety tips for dogs, many of these pertain to cats as well. If you have any questions or have a topic you would like to hear about please contact our staff at 630-365-9599 or you can contact us via email at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net)

Our pets love summer just as much as we do. While there is nothing wrong with taking your pet out for picnics, hikes, swimming, or running, keep in mind the warmer weather can be dangerous. It's hard for pet's to keep cool when the sun is beating down, and animals don't sweat like people do. Dogs do sweat, but only through their paws, and it does little to cool them off. Dogs more commonly cool themselves down through panting. When there is only hot air for a dog to breathe, it's a lot harder for that dog to keep cool.

### **Never, ever, leave your pet in a hot car**

It seems this can never be stressed enough! It can take minutes for a pet to develop heat stroke and suffocate in a car. Most people don't realize how hot it gets in parked cars. On a 78 degree day, for instance, temperatures in a car can reach 90 degrees in the shade and top 160 degrees if parked directly in the sun! Your best bet is to just leave your pet home on warm days. If you are driving around with your pet in the car, bring water and a water dish and take your pet with you when you leave the car.



### **Make sure your pet is protected from parasites like fleas, ticks and mosquitos**

If not protected, your pet is at risk for heartworm, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and a lot of other nasty conditions. And don't forget, many of these diseases can be caught by people too.

### **Keep your dog's paws cool**

When the sun is blazing, surfaces like asphalt or metal can get really hot! Please keep your pet off hot asphalt; not only can it burn their paws; it can also increase body temperature and lead to overheating. If you can't hold your hand on the pavement for more than 7 seconds, it's too hot for your dog!

### **Your pet should always have access to fresh drinking water and shade**

Dogs get much thirstier than we do when they get hot, and other the panting and drinking, they really have no way to cool themselves down. Keep your pet in the shade as much as possible. While dogs and cats love to sunbathe, direct sunlight can overheat them and cause heatstroke.

## **Give your dog his very own kiddy pool**

Dogs who love the water, naturally love it even more in the hot months, and getting wet helps keep them cool.



## **Don't assume your dog can swim well**

Just because dogs instinctively know how to swim, doesn't mean they are good swimmers. And if your dog jumps in your swimming pool, he might not be able to get out without help and could easily drown. Make sure your dog can't get into your swimming pool when you're not around and teach your dog how to get out using a ladder or other device.

## **Dogs get sunburn too**

Dogs can sunburn, especially those with short or light colored coats. And just like with people, sunburns can be painful for a dog and overexposure to the sun can lead to skin cancer. Talk to your veterinarian about sunscreens for your dog. Sunscreens for people are not appropriate for our pets.



## **If there is no fence, keep your dog on a leash**

Summer means all sorts of exciting sights, sounds, scents, little critters running around, and new and exciting places to explore. You don't want to lose your dog because he became distracted in an unfamiliar environment. And not every dog is meant to be off leash, some dogs can never be fully trusted to come when called.

## **Watch your dog's weight**

After a long winter, many dogs put on a few pounds. Summer is the perfect time to increase his level of exercise and get in tip/top shape. A pet that maintains a healthy weight throughout his lifetime will live, on average, 2 - 3 years longer than an overweight pet. Just make sure not to over exert your pet. Give him adequate rest, and if your dog is especially overweight, make sure you ease him into physical activity.

### **Keep your windows screened**

You may want your house to be ventilated, but you don't want your dog or cat jumping out!

### **Protect against poisons**

Toxic mushrooms grow in many places around the country, so be vigilant about removing them from your yard. Many plants and bulbs are also toxic. Summer also brings chemical hazards. Antifreeze is particularly deadly, so leaky cars are a hazard, clean up any spills immediately. This is also the time of year when people are using fertilizers, mulches, and pesticides in yards and on lawns. Don't let your dog wander in other yards where chemicals or cocoa mulch might be used.

### **Don't let burrs get buried**

Summer grasses often produce sticky or spiky seed cases. Foxtails and burrs can get caught in the paws or fur and work their way into - or even through - the skin. Foxtails have been known to work their way inside the chest or abdomen, where infection can be life threatening. Check your pet after every outing to ensure its fur isn't harboring any of these nasty items. If you live near water or take your dog on fishing trips, be careful with your fishing hooks and lines, and watch out for those that others may have left behind.

### **Drive safely**

As much as your dog may like to ride in the bed of your truck or hang his head out the window, either can cause injury to your dog. Every year thousands of dogs

are injured or killed when they jump or

fall from vehicles. Even in an enclosed car, pets can be thrown and injured if you have to brake suddenly. For car rides of any length, the very safest place for pets is in the back seat, either wearing a safety harness, or in a carrier or a confined area. Pets loose in the car can distract and interfere with the driver, which could result in an accident.



### **Always wear identification**

Pets should always wear a collar or harness and ID tag no matter where they are or where they are going. Cats should be fitted with a breakaway collar for maximum safety. Have your pet microchipped for added insurance, thousands of lost pets have been returned home thanks to microchips! (If you do have your pet microchipped, please make sure to keep your pet's microchip registration information updated if you move or have a phone number changed).

## **Be prepared**

Whether at home or away, keep a first aid kit ready in case of emergencies. There are special kits for both dogs and cats.



If you have any questions or comments, please email us at [3lburn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3lburn@sbcglobal.net) or call 630-365-9599! If you have a subject you would like covered in our newsletter please let us know!