

Pet Summer Safety

It's finally summertime! Time for picnics, pools, beaches, sun and fun! While our pets love summer too, there are things we can do to keep our pets safe and healthy. Here are some tips so they can enjoy the season along with us.

Heat Advisory

- If you are outside with your pet on a hot day, make sure he has a shady spot to rest in.
- Always provide plenty of fresh, cool water for your pet.
- If your pet is a water lover, fill a child's wading pool with some water to help him cool off.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a car. The temperature inside a car can rise to over 100 degrees in a matter of minutes.
- Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Walk your pup or play with your cat in early morning or evening.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt or sand, which can burn tender paws.
- Be aware of early signs of Heatstroke:
 - Heavy panting
 - Rapid breathing
 - Excessive drooling
 - Bright red gums and tongue
 - Standing 4-square, posting or spreading out in an attempt to maintain balance
- If you suspect heatstroke, move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck, and chest or run cool (not cold) water over her. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. If the condition does not improve, see your veterinarian.

General Health

- Make sure your pet's vaccinations are up to date, since they are more likely to come into contact with fleas, ticks, mosquitos and other animals .
- Use flea, tick, and heartworm medications as directed by your veterinarian.
- Be alert for coolant leaking from your vehicle. If you believe your pet may have ingested coolant, take him to the vet right away.
- Avoid lawns which have been treated with chemicals or fertilizer for 24 hours.



Beach Tips

- Do not let your dog drink seawater; the salt will make him sick.
- Fur will not protect your pet from sunburn. Limit outdoor exposure, and apply FDA-approved sunscreen for pets. Note: sunscreens approved for dogs are not appropriate for cats.
- If your dog has gone into the ocean, be sure to rinse him off well.



Party Time

- Remember that the food and drink offered to guests may be poisonous to pets.
- Keep alcoholic beverages away from pets.
- Remember that the snacks enjoyed by your human friends should not be a treat for your pet especially avoid raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and products with the sweetener xylitol.

Water Safety

- Not all pets love swimming. Be aware of your pet's preferences before exposing him to the water.
- Never throw your pet into the water.
- If you have a pool, make sure your pet knows where the steps or ladder is located.
- Never leave your pet unattended near water.

Beat the Heat with a Treat

- A Kong that's stuffed with wet food or peanut butter, then frozen, is a cooling treat for dogs.
- Frozen portions of wet cat food make nice, cooling 'catsicles'.

Additional resources (click on links for more info)

<https://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/summersafetytips>

https://www.akc.org/public_education/summer_safety.cfm

<http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/diseasesandconditions/qt/petsunscreens.htm>

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/pets_safe_heat_wave.html

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/hot-weather-tips>