

Summer Safety Concerns

Summer is truly a fun time to enjoy your canine companion. With precautions you can hike, take walks and attend summer functions. Here are some safety tips for responsible dog guardians.

- 🐾 Never leave your dog unattended in direct sunlight. Heatstroke can occur and lead to brain damage and possibly death (see Heat Exhaustion).
- 🐾 Signs of Heatstroke: panting, drooling, rapid pulse and fever. Immediately immerse the dog in cool water and seek veterinary assistance.
- 🐾 Always make sure your dog has access to cold water and shade, especially if you are leaving them outdoors in the peak heat times.
- 🐾 All dogs should have proper identification, with a collar, ID tag and microchip or tattoo. If you are camping or hiking in a strange, unfenced area, keep your dog on at least a flexi-lead. This will prevent accidents and injuries to yourself, your dog and others. This is respectful.
- 🐾 Avoid strenuous exercise, especially if your dog is out-of-condition. Refrain from physical activity when the sun's heat is intense. Swimming is fine, but they can still overheat.
- 🐾 Short haired dogs can sunburn and heavy coated, black dogs will overheat quicker.
- 🐾 Too much sea water will make a dog sick!

Health Tips

We may know our canine companions better than anyone else, but it is important to remember that if you are not a medical professional, it is important to keep some of the following in mind:

- 🐾 Get educated, and then calmly discuss vaccination protocols with your Veterinarian regarding diseases such as rabies, distemper, parvo, lyme and other indigenous precautions.
- 🐾 Beware of insect bites. If your dog is bitten or stung, remove the stinger and watch for allergic reactions or anaphylactic shock. If there has been multiple stings, go to a Vet. We administer appropriate dog doses of Benadryl. Have some with you. If you aren't sure about dosing ... children's liquid or pill is usually fine for dogs under 50lbs and over 50lbs we give a adult dose.
- 🐾 Check your dog daily for fleas and ticks. Brush them regularly and check the brush.
- 🐾 Heartworm is a common problem for dogs (and sometimes cats). Have a heartworm check yearly. Most Vets are using 3-way tests for heartworm, lyme and erlichia.
- 🐾 Make sure lawn and garden products are dog friendly. Keep plants and fertilizers out of the dog's reach.
- 🐾 Being outdoors means being exposed to the elements. Dogs need extra-care with brushing, bathing and preventative flea and tick measures.
- 🐾 No matter how careful you are, accidents can happen. Keep your Vet's and Emergency phone numbers close at hand and in your wallet.



SUMMER SAFETY GUIDELINES

Awareness Education Relationship Well-Being

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Heat Exhaustion

Along with lots of sunshine (Vitamin D), the hot weather can make anyone feel uncomfortable, especially your dog. A dog's body handles heat differently than us humans. They cool down by sweating through the pads of their paws and by panting. Dark and double coated breeds, who may love to hike with you, can become overheated very quickly. Dogs left in vehicles can overheat, causing brain damage and/or death.

We enjoy having our dogs join us for rides, but be mindful that you could be risking his or her life if left unattended on a hot day even with the windows down. On a hot summer day, the inside of a car heats quickly. On an 85 degree day, the temperature inside your car, with the windows slightly opened, *will reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes!* In 30 minutes, it will go up to 120 degrees. On warmer days it will go even higher.

A dog's normal body temp is 101.5 to 102.2 degrees Fahrenheit. A dog can withstand a body temp of 107-108 degrees Fahrenheit for only a very short time before suffering irreparable brain damage or death. The closed car interferes with the dog's normal cooling process, evaporation through panting.

If you absolutely must leave your dog in the car for short periods, leave the car windows ajar, so your dog can get fresh air. If you leave them too wide open, you risk your dog jumping out, getting stuck or being stolen. Park in the shade and cover your front windows with a shade cover. Get a little fan that plugs into your cigarette lighter, secure it so the dog can't knock it over or get hurt. Leave some water or ice in a spill-proof bowl.

IF YOUR DOG IS OVERCOME BY HEAT EXHAUSTION, YOU CAN GIVE IMMEDIATE FIRST AID BY IMMERSING HIM OR HER IN COLD WATER UNTIL THE BODY TEMP IS LOWERED. IF YOUR DOG DOES NOT RECOVER IMMEDIATELY ... GET TO THE NEAREST VETERARIAN.



"Hey ... I'm kinda thirsty and I think I just got stung by that bee! Did you bring the Benedry?"

Canine Stretch & Conditioning Teaching your Dog to Swim

Most dogs will learn to swim naturally and love it. Swimming is great way to exercise puppies, adult and older dogs. Here are some tips for teaching your dog to swim or getting your dog back into condition after a lazy winter:

- 🐾 Never force or throw puppies into water. Let them discover this with gentle coaxing. You can use a treat or toy.
- 🐾 Begin in shallow water. If you have an experience canine swimmer, let the pup observe, then follow.
- 🐾 If your dog begins to doggy paddle with the front legs only, gently pick up the hind legs while giving positive encouragement.
- 🐾 Swimming is a great form of exercise, but don't let your dog overdue unless he or she is in condition.
- 🐾 Just as we stretch and warm-up before strenuous physical activity, our dogs should too. Walk first.
- 🐾 Massage & gently flex the older dog's legs. Don't encourage them to go beyond their capabilities.
- 🐾 Be careful of strong tides at beaches and heed the beach/lake rules. Some do and some don't allow dogs.
- 🐾 Do not leave dogs unattended! You should always be in a position to help your dog out of water.

Burp!

"Please, don't feed me for at least an hour before strenuous physical activity ... I'll hurl."

