

EXTREME HEAT WARNING
Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated

Pet Summer Safety/July Fourth Tips

WARNING: Temperatures are expected to be higher than normal this Summer.

Short walks in the early morning or early evening is best. Make sure pets have plenty of fresh cool water available.

Caution when out walking and with barefoot children or pets.

Remember, the closer to the ground, the warmer it is.

Pet Summer Safety/July Fourth Tips

by

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Spring has sprung and seems to be rapidly moving toward summer weather. Now is the time to be aware of the effect that hot weather has on our pets. Use common sense, be respectful of your pets, and follow some life saving tips.

1. Visit your vet in spring or early summer for a check up to make

sure that your pet is in good condition and ready for the hot weather ahead. And while you are there, make sure that your pet is up to date on necessary vaccinations and protected from parasites, including heart worm and fleas/ticks.

2. At air temperatures of 95 degrees, cement can reach 140 degrees and asphalt easily reaches 155 degrees. Therefore, walk/exercise your dog early in the morning or early evening when air temperatures are lower and safer. Remember, older dogs are less heat tolerant. Also, older dogs are more likely to have heart/lung conditions which may make them more vulnerable during heat waves.

3. Pets can become dehydrated quickly, so provide them with plenty of clean, fresh water on hot and humid days.

4. NEVER leave your pet alone in a parked vehicle. Cars can heat up quickly which can lead to fatal heat stroke.

5. Animals with flat faces such as Pugs and Persian cats are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant effectively and consequently have elevated body temperatures. Also elderly, overweight, and obese pets are at greater risk of heat stroke.

6. Know the symptoms of overheating and potential heat stroke in pets: excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse and seizures. Dogs don't sweat but instead rely on their respiratory system to cool down.

7. Feel free to trim longer hair on your pet, but never shave your dog. The layers of dog's coats protect from overheating and sunburn.

8. **Please** leave pets at home when you go out to 4th of July celebrations, or any other celebration where fireworks will be encountered. Never use fireworks around your pet.

- Keep your pet indoors during July 4th celebrations.
- Create a safe space in a familiar place for your pet.
- Prepare for noise P\phobias. Prescription medications may be needed. Consult your veterinarian.
- Make sure that your pet has an up-to-date ID an consider a microchips.
- Resist giving your pet people food from the "back yard" feast.
- Avoid letting your pet around alcohol as it may be toxic to dogs and cats.
- Keep your pet away from glow sticks, sparklers, etc.
- Keep pets away from open flames or grills.
- Stay alert for signs of overheating. Provide ample shade and plenty of cool water. And be aware of heavy panting, labored breathing, drooling, red mucus membranes in mouth, and an increased heart rate – all signs of an overheating pet.

REMINDER – HOT TIPS

I don't have to remind you that IT IS **HOT OUTSIDE!!** Please be aware of the effect that hot weather has on you and your pet and remember the following tips. It just might save your pets life.

1. Walk/exercise your dog early in the morning or early in the evening when air temperatures/humidity are likely lower and safer. Also, remember that *older dogs are less heat tolerant* and are more likely to have heart/lung conditions which could make them

more vulnerable during the extreme heat waves that we have been experiencing.

2. Be aware that pets become dehydrated quickly. Make sure they have plenty of clean fresh water.

3. NEVER leave your pet alone in a parked car with all the windows closed. Cars can heat up quickly which can lead to fatal heat stroke in your pet. Even with windows cracked a bit, cars can heat up and have a serious effect on your pet. Best to leave your pet at home in cooler temperatures.

4. If you notice signs of overheating and potential heat stroke in your pet (excessive panting, difficulty breathing, mild weakness, stupor, seizures) contact your veterinarian immediately.