

The Hazards of Summer

Although we are still encountering some rain, the summer is almost here and temperatures on sunny days have already hit 25°. But what steps should we take to protect our animals when the suns out and the temperatures rise?

- 1) Check your pets regularly for ticks and grass seeds, early action can prevent discomfort and possible veterinary involvement. Grass seeds are nasty and can get into the eyes and ears of your pet, as well as into their pads. They can cause the animal to violently shake its head if one has lodged itself in the ear, so check carefully if your pet shows these signs. Ticks can be prevented by using a Scalibor collar along with Frontline spot-on or Advocate combined with the Scalibor collar: Advantix for 3 months and then Frontline Combo for 3 months combined with Stronghold. If you find a tick attached the removal with the O Tom Tick Removal (Tick Twister) is the best method.
- 2) Dogs can soon overheat, they do not perspire so they pants in order to control their temperature. Excessive panting, drooling and restlessness are signs that they may be having problems. Provide cool shaded areas for them to sleep. If they are too hot wrap a cool, damp towel around them. If problems persist then get them to a vet. There are reflective coats available – Coolers – that can protect dogs with thin coats or dogs that are prone to overheating.
- 3) Provide plenty of clean, fresh water. This should be changed at least daily to prevent bacterial and algae growth.
- 4) DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG IN A CAR on a warm day. Cars can act as ovens and heat up very quickly even with the window open. Parking in the shade can not guarantee protection as the shade will move when the sun moves. If you see a dog locked in a car on a hot day then do not hesitate to get help.
- 5) Don't tie your dog up outside as they may become tangled up and not be able to get into the shade.
- 6) Protect your dogs and cats noses and ears – especially white cats and dogs – with sunscreen. They are available especially formulated for pets.
- 7) Try to limit exercising your dog in the middle of the day because they can overheat.
- 8) Keep an eye out for bees and wasps. These usually attack noses, paws and ears. Some animals, like humans, can have an allergic reaction to stings, so prompt veterinary intervention is necessary if this is the case. Bees have an acid sting, so once the sting has been removed, the area needs to be bathed with bicarbonate of soda. Wasps do not leave their sting and have an alkali sting, these should be bathed with vinegar.
- 9) Watch out for snakes! Dogs and cats can easily disturb a sunbathing snake. Hopefully, once disturbed, the snake will slither away but if your pet is bitten then get them to a vet.
- 10) Dispose of uneaten food, and wash out bowls, as soon as the pet has finished eating. Uneaten food that is left on warm days, is a magnet for flies and other insects. Dried foods appear less attractive to flies and insects.
- 11) When you take your pet out, make sure you take plenty of water with you, and stop your pet drinking out of stagnant puddles and ponds.
- 12) Protect your dogs eyes from the sun. Dogs with long facial fur need to keep a visor of fur to cover their eyes. Dog sunglasses (DOGGLES) are available. Exposure to strong sun can cause corneal and cataract problems.

Enjoy the summer.!

Julie Pickering
Paws 4 Pets

Protect your pet with knowledge

Copyright© Paws 4 Pets 2006