



June Newsletter

"You and Your Pets Are Part Of Our Family"

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Summer Safety



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Summer Heat

Remember that blacktop parking lot? You've seen the waves of heat shimmering off it. You've felt the heat right through the soles of your shoes, but imagine walking barefoot on it! That's what you're asking your dog to do when you're out and about on a hot summer's day.

Dog owners in particular love to share all of their summer activities with their furry friends. And pets love to be with their people, even if it puts their lives at risk. That happy, endearing tongue-lolling grin may also be a warning of impending heat stroke, and severe heat stroke will cause nausea, loss of consciousness, irreparable finally, death.

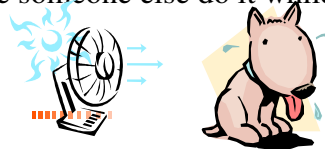


just as with people,
brain damage and,

So you'll leave your dog in the shade in the car right? **WRONG!** Even with the windows open, on an 85 degree day, the temperature inside your car will climb to 102 degrees in 10 minutes! On a 90 degree day, temps in the car can top 160 degrees faster than you can walk around the block. We won't even talk about the back of a pickup truck, "in the fresh air" with no shade at all! If you really love your dog, leave him at home in a nice cool place with plenty of fresh water to drink.

In fact if it's an especially hot day, keep your dogs and cats in the house with you with a fan and maybe even some frozen-bouillon treats. (low sodium beef or chicken bouillon cubes dissolved in water and frozen in an ice cube tray).

How to recognize heat stroke in your pet: They'll pant like crazy, be exhausted or agitated, and start vomiting. At this point you can usually cool them down by giving ice cubes to eat (cold water will not stay down, make them vomit and quicken dehydration) sponging him down with a damp towel, and having him dry off in front of a fan. If his symptoms also include graying gums and loss of consciousness, take immediate action. Immerse him in cold water or hose him down with a gentle but soaking spray and direct a fan on him. Work on getting his temperature down first then call your vet, or have someone else do it while you work on getting that temperature down.



Pet Photo Contest

Our annual pet photo contest! Please have ready to submit your picture with your name, your pet's name and the category you are entering in, remembering that the photo won't be returned to you, by June. The contest will close June 24th and the winner announced June 30th 2006.



The categories are:

- 1-Cutest Puppy** **2-Cutest Kitten** **3-Pet-look-a-like-** do you look like your companion animal?
4-Animal antics- show us the zaniest, funniest or craziest thing your pet does

* Great prizes to be won...all entered photos will be on display in the clinic!



Summer garden and lawn safety!

With the arrival of spring and summer, people's thoughts turn to working in the garden and on their lawn. As the weather improves and people spend more time outside however, the possibility of pets being poisoned increases. The most commonly used lawn care products are fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides.

When applied according to package instructions, or by a qualified lawn care service, most of these products are not harmful. Pets are primarily poisoned by contact with concentrated products. Dogs are especially good at finding poorly stored containers and chewing up or drinking the contents. Pet owners should be especially vigilant when using insecticides, as these tend to have a higher level of toxicity. Pets may be exposed by various means: digging up treated earth, chewing on pellets, or rooting around ant mounds shortly after insecticides by various means.



Many pets chew on plants in the yard or garden. Tulips, Lily of the valley and azaleas are also springtime plants that can be deadly to pets if ingested in quantity. Generally most lawn seed and mulch products are not associated with toxic problems in pets. Cocoa bean mulch is perhaps the only product known to cause poisoning in dogs. This mulch is made from the hulls of cocoa beans and when fresh has a rich chocolate aroma associated with it. Pets should be kept away from the mulch until the aroma has dissipated, generally a heavy rainfall or thorough watering is all that's needed.



- *Read all package instructions carefully before applying any products to your lawn or garden.
- *Check with your local garden center about the safety of plants you are putting into your garden.
- *Be sure not only is it safe around your pets but that you are mixing it correctly or applying it correctly.

Traveling with your pets, and where to stay!



First things first:

Plan before you leave. If your dog is currently taking medications, be sure to take enough with you for the duration of your stay. Bring along the pertinent health information and have the contact numbers of a recommended vet and emergency clinic nearby where you'll be.

On the road

For the safety of your family, your pet, and others sharing the road, ensure that your pet travels in a carrier or secured with a seat belt. While it's tempting to let your dog have his head out the window, you'll be putting his eyes at risk for serious injury. Never leave your pet unattended in your car for any period of time!

Water safety

The cardinal rule: DO not leave your pet unattended, either on or off leash, around any bodies of water. Not all dogs can swim, and leashed animals can become entangled, injuring or drowning themselves while tethered to a dock or boat. Ensure your dog wears a life jacket during water travel. Monitor your pet's sun exposure and rinse dogs with fresh water after swimming in lakes, streams and ocean water to prevent skin infections.



Outdoor Safety

Dogs can get Heartworm from a single infected mosquito, so Heartworm prevention is crucial. If you travel to an infected area, tell Dr Taylor or his staff and we'll find the best prevention for you pet. Bee stings and insect bites can produce allergic reactions that cause swelling pain, and in some cases, breathing difficulties.

Cats and dogs can get sunburned. Cats with white ears are especially prone to develop sunburn on the tips and edges of the ears.

Some pets, whose hair is clipped very short over their bodies or for some reason have sparse hair can also develop sunburn where their skin is exposed. Pets susceptible to sunburn should be kept out of direct summer sun, especially in the middle of the day when the sun is particularly strong.



Pet friendly places to stay: Hotels and resorts in Tofino, Victoria and around the country have pet friendly places to stay, some with extras for their VIP furry guests!

Check it out on the web: www.petwelcome.com www.petfriendly.com
www.moderndogmagazine.com

