

Summer Safety Sheet



The sun is out, the days are growing longer, it's time to get out and enjoy the fresh air. Before you do so here are some facts and figures that you need to know to make sure that you and your pets have a Safe and Happy Summer:-

1. Your pet's normal body temperature is at least 5 degrees higher than yours and he is wearing a fur coat! Special care needs to be taken with your pet to make sure that he/she does not overheat. If your pet does become overheated cool him down with cool towels and get him to the veterinarian as quickly as possible – never immerse a pet in ice cold water as it may cause him to go into shock;
2. Dehydration can be a fatal condition for a domestic cat or dog – make sure that your pet has access to a steady supply of fresh water at all times;
3. It is best to keep pets (particularly cats) indoors in the hot weather. Take dogs for a walk in the early morning or when it has started to cool down in the evening;
4. Be careful when walking your dog, if the ground is too hot for you to stand on comfortably in bare feet, it is too hot for your dog – stay in grassy areas wherever possible;
5. Do not allow dogs to ride in the beds of pick-up trucks it is dangerous and the truck bed can burn their paws;
6. Never leave your dog in a parked car on a hot day – even a short stop could cost your pet his life. Leaving the windows cracked open will not cool the car enough to protect your pet;
7. Although most dogs and cats are good swimmers, they may not be able to get out of a backyard pool. Make sure that your pets cannot get near the pool especially when pool covers are being used;
8. Keep your pets well groomed, clip long or matted coats short to help your pet to stay cool; but do remember that pets can get sunburned too, don't clip the coat too short;
9. If your pet has to be outside, always make sure that he has access to a cool shady area;
10. Try to eliminate your pet's exposure to chemical insecticides or weed killers that you or others may use in gardens or lawns;
11. Talk to your veterinarian about the protection that your pet will need against summer insects and parasites including fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and heartworm;
12. More cats and dogs go missing during the summer than any other season, microchip and register your pet with 24PetWatch and always make sure that he is wearing proper identification.

Enjoy your summer!!

