



Summer Safety



With summer here and the warm weather beckoning us off our couches and into the great outdoors, it is time to start planning how to spend all those sunny summer days. For most pet owners and animal lovers, those plans will probably include your furry, four-legged friends. As the temperature rises it is important to take some precautions to keep our pets healthy and safe from the hazards that accompany summer:

Pets need access to fresh, cool water at all times. Make certain that your pet is ALWAYS wearing a collar and identification tag. Microchipping your pet is also an excellent idea as it offers an even greater chance of locating your pet if she is lost.

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. On a sunny day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time—even with the windows open—which could lead to fatal heat stroke.

Keep cats indoors to keep them safe. Cars, people, and other animals can all pose risks to cats' safety. By providing playtime, cat trees, and other enrichment, a cat will be happy and content to stay inside.

Don't Put Your Pet in the Back of a Truck. It is very dangerous, and in some states illegal, to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury, but a dog may be unintentionally thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.

When taking a dog for a walk on a hot day, adjust your schedule to walk in the morning and evenings to take advantage of cooler temperatures. Remember that sidewalks can get hot enough to burn the pads of your dog's feet, so try to walk on grass if possible. Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh water when it's hot. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun.

Keep your pet up to date on flea treatment. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your vet. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

Never leave a dog outdoors unattended on a chain or tether. This can result in countless insect bites, dehydration, and heat stroke. Even short-term unattended tethering can pose risks such as theft or attacks by people or animals.

Beware of cocoa mulch and other gardening products. Cocoa mulch has an appetizing scent to some animals and can be deadly if ingested. Pesticides, fertilizers, and other harsh chemicals can also be quickly fatal if ingested. Keep citronella candles, oil products, and insect coils out of pets' reach as well. Most home stores offer pet-friendly alternatives to keep your lawn beautiful and pet safe. When walking your dog, steer clear of areas that you suspect have been sprayed with chemicals.

Be considerate of elderly, fragile, ill, and young animals that are not able to cope well with hot weather and high humidity. Watch out for signs of heat-stroke in your pet which may include excessive panting, staring, glazed eyes, drooling, warm dry skin, high fever, rapid heartbeat, vomiting or even fainting.

Pet rabbits should be kept indoors because they don't tolerate heat well. Doing so will also provide protection from predators who might try to attack a rabbit in an outdoor hutch.

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool— not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and try to keep your dog from drinking pool water, which contains chlorine and other chemicals that could cause stomach upset.



S.A.R.A.'s Treasures
871 River Road, Eugene OR 97404
Open 10:00-6:00 Every Day
541-607-8892 www.sarastreasures.org