

Summer Safety Tips

As the weather becomes warmer everyone is excited to enjoy Minnesota outdoors with our pets. Here are a few items to keep your pet safe this summer.

Prevent Heat Stroke

Pets can become overheated and dehydrated very quickly in hot weather, especially when exercising. Make sure you provide shade and fresh water to your pet. Symptoms of overheating include panting, heavy breathing, drooling, weakness and collapse. Severe symptoms can include seizures, bloody diarrhea vomiting and an elevated body temperature over 104 degrees.

Some pets are more susceptible to heat stroke. This includes flat faced breeds, like pugs, as well as Persian cats. Senior pets, overweight pets and pets with heart or lung disease also have an increased risk of heat stroke. These pets should be kept inside or in a cool location during hot weather.

Hot Surfaces and Water

In the summer black asphalt can quickly heat up and cause burns to your pet's paws. Avoid allowing your dog to walk or run on asphalt. Water sitting inside a hose can reach scalding temperatures. Before rinsing your pet off run the water out of the hose for a couple minutes and test the temperature.

Barbeque is not for Pets

If your pet is attending a backyard barbeque or party, keep them on a leash safely away from people, food and drinks. For some pets, even a small bite of a hamburger can cause digestive ailments. Some human food can be toxic to pets including grapes and raisins, chocolate, onions, garlic and foods with xylitol as the sweetener.

Secure your Windows

All open windows should have tightly fitted screens. Any windows past the first floor may need extra reinforcement to prevent a pet from pushing the screen and falling out of the window. Pets can be seriously or fatally injured when falling out of a window from heights.

Fireworks

Besides scaring pets, fireworks can result in burns or trauma to curious pets. Fireworks also contain many toxic chemicals and if ingested, even after being lit off, can cause poisoning.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.