

Summer Safety Tips for Your Pet

Participating in outdoor activities with your pet is one of the great joys of summer. To make sure it remains a safe and fun experience, check out these tips!

Protection from the heat

Some breeds of dogs are more sensitive to the heat than others. These breeds include brachycephalic or “smooshed face” breeds such as Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, and Pekingese. Regardless of breed, the following tips are recommended to protect your pet from the heat.

- Reserve long walks and play to early morning and evening hours.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a closed space or car, even with the windows cracked. Cars quickly exceed temperatures of 110°F!
- Always make sure your pet has access to plenty of fresh water.

Recognizing signs of heat intolerance are vital to prevent heat related injury. These signs may include:

- Respiratory Distress - Difficulty breathing/excessive panting, loud breathing noise, purple-blue gums
- Weakness or collapse
- Vomiting and diarrhea

If your pet is experiencing a heat related injury, rapid intervention prior to seeking veterinary medical attention can be life saving.

- Move your pet into a cool environment.
- Take their temperature at the start and throughout active cooling measures.
- Bathe or hose down with cool, not cold, water. Stop active cooling measures at a temperature of 103°F.
- Provide access to cool drinking water.

High rise

Opening your window on a nice summer day can result in devastating consequences if your cat or dog were to fall.

- ALWAYS make sure your windows are outfitted with screens.

Water safety

Many dogs love water sports. This summer, help your furry friends understand their limitations around the water.

- Always supervise your pets around pools and other bodies of water.
- Pets tire, too! Consider fitting your dog with a life vest.
- Do not allow your pet to drink salt water. This can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other severe complications associated with large salt intake.

BBQ blues

During summer parties, protect your pets from the BBQ blues!

- Keep pets away from matches and lighter fluid.
- Use citronella candles, oil, and insecticides cautiously.
- Protect them from bones, people food, and alcoholic beverages.
- Apply sunscreen labeled for pets only.



Veterinary Medical Center—**Columbus**
614-292-3551
601 Vernon Sharp Street
Columbus, OH 43210
vet.osu.edu/vmc

Veterinary Medical Center—**Dublin**
614-292-3551
5020 Bradenton Avenue
Dublin, OH 43017
vet.osu.edu/vmc-dublin