

SUMMER DANGERS AND PRECAUTIONS



Heatstroke

- Heatstroke can be fatal. Signs may include excessive panting and salivation, unresponsiveness, anxiety, warm dry skin, a high fever, rapid heart rate, weakness, the inability to move, and eventual collapse. If your pet shows any of these signs contact a veterinarian immediately.

Heatstroke Prevention

- Never leave pets in an unattended car. Just a few minutes can be deadly and simply opening a car window will not eliminate the dangers of heat stroke or death.
- Do not leave pets outside on very hot days for prolonged periods of time. Make sure their outdoor area has shade and access to plenty of fresh, cool water.
- During very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours.

Other Heat Issues

- Asphalt, concrete, and rocky trails can cause severe burns to the pads on your pet's feet. This can result in pain and damage to the paws. Pickup truck beds can also become extremely hot very quickly and are also a dangerous place for you pet to ride.
- It is best to gradually build up your pet's tolerance to asphalt surfaces if they have been confined to the yard during the winter months. Make sure to check your pet's paws frequently to make sure they are not burned, cracked, or lacerated. Avoid walking your dog on hot surfaces during the hot, sunny hours of the summer days. Watch for signs such as not wanting to continue on their walk, limping, or favoring their paws.
- If you suspect your pet may have burned the bottom of their feet, be sure to seek veterinary care immediately.



Insects



- During the spring and summer months, our pets frequently come in contact with the insect population in their environment. Most of the time, there are no problems from these encounters. Occasionally, your pet may get stung or bitten by a wasp, bee, or spider and have a reaction to that bite. You may see a

sudden swelling on the face or other parts of the body. If you suspect your pet was bitten or stung by an insect seek immediate veterinary care.

- Mosquitoes are becoming more prevalent in Colorado. Make sure your dog is receiving heartworm prevention every month to prevent heartworm disease transmitted by mosquitoes.
- Fleas and ticks are not usually much of a concern in Colorado, but if you take your pet hiking or camping, or he has contact with prairie dog colonies, you may want to consider applying Frontline or another flea/tick product from your veterinarian.

Toxic Plants

- Another hazard to pets during the active, outdoor summer months is their willingness to eat a lot of things they shouldn't! Some plants can be toxic to our pets and require immediate veterinary care. If you notice your pet drooling, foaming at the mouth, acting 'drunk' or uncoordinated, trembling, having abnormal breathing, vomiting, having diarrhea or you suspect they have eaten something poisonous, please seek immediate veterinary care. Treating toxin ingestions as soon as possible is extremely important and gives us a chance for a better outcome.

Area Wildlife

- Even though we are in a metropolitan area, there are many predators living in our neighborhoods. Cats and very small dogs are easy targets for the fox, coyotes, hawks, owls, etc. that share our world. We recommend cats be indoor pets to keep them from becoming injured by these predators.
- Some prairie dog colonies carry bubonic plague, which is transmitted through flea bites or contact with infected animals including dead ones. Make sure to keep your pets away from them. Cats are especially susceptible to the plague, so make sure to keep your cats indoors. If your pet has been bitten by a prairie dog or has fleas, you should have your pet examined by a veterinarian right away.

