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SUMMER HAZARDS

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WWW.SILVERMAPLEVET.COM

Tips to keep your furry companions healthy in the heat.



Summer time is a season that invites us to be outside and enjoy nature. Many activities we enjoy can also be enjoyed by our animal companions, particularly our dogs. This enjoyment also brings additional responsibility and necessary awareness to keep our pets safe. As pets are out and about and people hurrying from one place to another, it affords greater opportunity for a terrible accident. Keeping your pets under your control at all times is vital to their safety. Another very sad incident that can occur is that pets can get run over in their own driveway. It can happen so easily and is absolutely devastating for those involved. If your pets are out in your yard, just make sure to check under and behind cars before driving away. They will seek out cool spots on a hot day and the shade afforded by a parked car can fill that need.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency and can be fatal. Signs of heatstroke are: panting, staring, anxious

expression, refusal to obey commands, warm/dry skin, high fever, rapid heartbeat, vomiting and collapse. If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure they have a shady spot in which to rest. Doghouses are NOT good shelter in the summer as they can trap heat. You may want to fill a child's pool with fresh water—a cool dip never hurts...but, remember to empty it every night as standing water will breed mosquitoes. Speaking of water, it can also be a hazard. Standing water from puddles or ponds can expose him to giardia, which is a common waterborne parasite. Some dogs enjoy swimming, but some don't. The best advice is to never leave your dog unattended in the water.

In addition to giardia exposure, summer brings increased exposure to all types of diseases; i.e., lyme disease, heartworm, intestinal parasites. There are preventatives for many of these and an occasional fecal exam is always a good idea.

Outside play also brings potential for injuries that can result in open wounds. A cat fight can lead to a puncture wound which can abscess and in warm months, can invite a maggot infestation. This can happen very quickly and must be taken care of im-

mediately. Wildlife is also enjoying the summer and a run-in with a skunk or groundhog is not unheard of. In addition to the smell of a skunk confrontation, there is also the potential for bite wounds and increased risk of rabid animals. It's so important to protect your pets with a rabies vaccination. We always have our reduced-cost Rabies Clinic in April of every year and all proceeds go to our Silver Maple Veterinary Clinic Benefit Fund.

Antifreeze is not just a winter hazard. Hot weather may tempt your pet to drink from puddles in the street, which can contain antifreeze and other chemicals. Chemicals can also be found in lawns that are fertilized and certain plants, plant food, fertilizer and insecticides can be fatal if ingested. Check and recheck labels of any of these items. The products will state very clearly if the ingredients are harmful. Plants such as foxglove, bittersweet, oriental lily, calla lily, morning glory - are poisonous to pets.

While there are many hazards, all can be avoided with increased awareness and knowledge. Summer is a great time to interact with our furry friends and enjoy the fun in the sun! See reverse side for informative websites.

SUMMER HAZARDS

- ◆ Hit by car
- ◆ Heat stroke
- ◆ Maggot infestation
- ◆ Plant or chemical poisonings
- ◆ Water safety
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Encounters with other animals
- ◆ Increased exposure to disease carrying parasites.

FLEA ALERT!!!!

We have seen an inordinate amount of heavy flea infestations, which are not typical for this time of year. We can help you choose the proper flea treatment and preventative....give us a call or stop by so your pet and home can remain flea free.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 19th, 20th, 21st
Pennsylvania Renewable
Energy and Sustainable Living
Festival

September
Nutrition Awareness Month

October 2008—February 2009
Spay/Neuter Clinics

February 2009
Dental Awareness Month

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Informative websites for summer safety:

www.veterinarypartners.com

www.mydogiscool.com

http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/summerheathhazards/Summer_Heat_and_Heath_Hazards_for_Pets.htm

Traveling with your pet?

As summer approaches, people's thoughts turn to warm weather and vacation time. For many, vacation plans include travel and this travel will include their pets. As advocates for your pet's health, we'd like to make you aware of considerations that should be made if you're going to travel with your pet. For pets traveling by air, it will be necessary for you to contact the airline well in advance in order to obtain specific regulations. Federal guidelines require pets to be at least 8 weeks old and weaned at least 5 days before then can fly. Generally, a health certificate no more than 10 days old will be necessary in addition to a valid rabies vaccination certificate. Car travel requires even more preparation. If you are traveling across state lines, you will want to check out the US State and Territory Animal Import Regulations website at www.aphis.usda.gov:80/vs/sregs for the latest relevant requirements. If your pet has never traveled by car, you may want to prepare your pet by taking it along on short trips to acclimate and see how it will respond to traveling. Vacationing with your pet can be a great deal of fun for everyone concerned with some advance planning. Below is a Top Ten List of recommendations for Pet Travel:

1. A method of confinement for the pet (in the car and at the destination).
2. Identification tags (tags and microchips).
3. Proof of rabies vaccination.

4. Contact info for your veterinarian.
5. Finding rules for your particular travel (airline, health certificates, quarantine).
6. Making reservations or obtaining a list of accommodations that will accept pets.
7. Planning for pet rest stops and potty breaks.
8. Bringing your pet's usual food along, or ensuring its usual food will be available at the travel destination.
9. Taking along food and water bowls, familiar toys and bedding, and extra leashes.
10. Planning for pet care at the destination during times the owner will be unable to bring the pet along.

Other Resources:

www.petsonthego.com

www.puppytravel.com



Items of Interest

Dr. Sam recently completed an intensive orthopedic surgery conference and we are now fully equipped to perform surgeries such as anterior cruciate ruptures, fractured legs and other orthopedic surgeries.

If you aren't traveling with your pet, reserve one of our Pet Cam runs....you can view your pet online while he's staying with us!

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the folks who were able to join us in celebrating our 20th Anniversary. To those who participated in the demonstrations....Kathy and Walter Hawley, John Sawyer, Sharon Jones, Susan Nazzaro, Beth Ann Siteman....thank you so much. And, a round of applause to Fred Ritter, who brought all his equipment and grilled the best hot dogs ever.

Thank you!

Cerenia is a new product that's available to prevent motion sickness. If you are traveling with your pet, this may help the trip be a more pleasant experience for all involved!!