

VACATION: Summertime marks vacation time for many. At that time people face the question of what to do with their pets when travel disrupts normal care. Some pet owners take their pets with them. Caregivers choosing this route will find the newsletter "Dog Gone" a useful resource. To receive this publication, write "Dog Gone" at P.O. Box 19498, Boulder, CO 80308-2498,

Web site:
www.doggonefun.com.



Other responsible parties turn over the care of their animals to neighbors, pet sitters, or friends.

Should this direction be taken, make certain the care-giver is reliable, makes frequent calls to you and is knowledgeable about the animal and their care. Also, make sure they know the phone number for your veterinarian and what actions they should take if any emergency situation occurs. And, please... *never leave your pet shut in an empty house or tied outside while on vacation.*

Many of us associate summer days with fun outdoor doors—but let's not forget that our companion animals need just as much care in the summer as they do in any other season.

A final note. Keep in mind that many dogs are terrified of thunderstorms and may break out of the most secure enclosure during a storm. Please be sure that all dogs have proper identification at all times.

Thank you for caring.



Fostering a sentiment of kindness to animals

P.O. Box 340, Charles Town, WV 25414-0340
304-725-0506 • www.nhes.org

Peace Plantation Animal Sanctuary, New York
12752 State Hwy. 206, Walton, NY 13856-2327
607-865-5759 • www.ppasny.org



Briggs Animal Adoption Center
P.O. Box 1023, Charles Town, WV 25414-1023
304-724-6558 • www.baacs.org

Presented by The National Humane Education Society



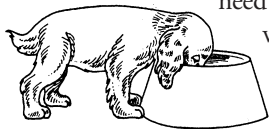
Summer Pet Care Tips

Simple steps for a safer habitat



Summer Pet Care

FOOD AND WATER: Due to the heat, many dogs and cats are less active in the summer and therefore need less food. Check with your veterinarian about the best diet for your pet.



The availability of plenty of cool, clean water is vitally important during this time of the year. Refresh the water bowls often and be sure the water bowls can't tip over.

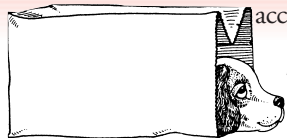
SHELTER: When outside, a dog must always have a shady and sheltered place to rest. The National Humane Education Society suggests you keep your cat inside so your pet won't get lost or injured. Don't worry—cats can get all the exercise they need inside!



HEATSTROKE AND PANTING:

Heatstroke is a swift killer. Unlike humans who sweat to cool themselves, dogs and cats cool by panting—breathing in through the nose and out through the mouth. This draws air over the moist membranes of the nose and tongue and cools by evaporation. But panting only works for a short time. Prolonged panting can critically upset the metabolic system. High humidity interferes with evaporation and diminishes the cooling effect of panting, proportionately increasing the likelihood of heatstroke. Pets often survive hot days, yet they may succumb on cooler days that are more humid. On these days, your dog may have knocked over his

water bowl or tipped over his doghouse, losing



access to shade.

These situations affect dogs more often than cats, perhaps because of their very different dispositions. In the heat of day, dogs are more active, particularly if another dog or a strange person comes near; they jump and bark excitedly to protect their turf. Cats might not even lift an eyelid, preferring to save their excitement for the cool of night. Intense activity causes body heat to rise. It is therefore wise to limit exercising your dog to the cooler hours of early morning or evening.

Activity alone, however, does not cause heatstroke. Confinement is the greatest perpetrator. *Never leave an animal in a parked car in warm weather—even for a short period of time with the windows open!*

For example, on a moderate 75° day, overhead sun on a parked car can very quickly push the temperature to over 120°. Although you and your pet would like to be together, during the hot summer months it's much kinder and safer to leave him or her at home.

The first symptoms of heatstroke are laborious panting, drooling and a bright red tongue and gums. The animal may then collapse. *Should these signs occur, you must take emergency action.* Get the animal into cool water, under a cool shower or give him a cool water rubdown right away. However, cooling the body back to normal is often not sufficient to save his life. Rush the pet to a veterinarian for continued treatment.

HEARTWORMS: Heartworms are internal parasites that are transmitted to dogs by mosquitoes. Because dogs infested with heartworms can suffer severe distress and die from heart failure, you should see a veterinarian for preventative medicine. Many people erroneously choose not to give heartworm medication during the winter months, thinking the mosquitoes are dormant. But not every area's winters kill mosquitoes—it is better to be safe than sorry. All dogs must be tested before receiving the preventative medications, even dogs receiving the preventative on a year-round basis. This is because some occult heartworms can manage to survive in a few dogs taking the preventatives.

SKIN DISEASES AND GROOMING:

Your companion animal may have more skin problems in warm weather. If your animal is scratching more than usual or has raw skin, call the vet. Daily brushing will keep your pet's coat healthy and clean. With regular brushing, most animals don't need frequent bathing. Consider your pet's coat appearance and odor as guides to decide how frequently to bathe him.

