

Summertime Fun With Your Pets

In the warmer days of summer, when the kids are out of school, your pets really look forward to having more fun and attention. Be sure the whole family takes care to keep your loving pets safe from the heat and sun.

Dogs can only rid their body of heat by panting. They do not have sweat glands, as humans do, except for a few on their feet. Panting alone is not enough when the temperature soars. To help combat the summer heat, monitor their time outdoors. Here are some Summer heat safety tips for you and your family to help your dog have a happy and healthy summer.

Exercise is critical to your pet's physical health, and the stimulation of the sights and sounds of the outdoors is excellent for your pet's mental health. Dogs love their walks. . . But not in the heat of the day. Watch out for heatstroke. Make sure you exercise in the cooler hours of the morning or evening.

Protect your pet's **Eyes** with a sun visor or sunglasses/goggles if you can get them to wear them in comfort. . . Especially older pets.

White or lighter colored dogs can get sunburn on the tops of their ears and the nose. Applying a sunscreen (SPF above 15) may help prevent sunburn.

Your pet should always have a current **name tag** on their collar: even if you have a fenced-in yard, an exercise pen, or tie out.

Never leave your pet in the car—even you park in the shade—in the heat. Just a few short minutes in these conditions can cause to irreversible organ damage or death.

Fresh **water** should always be available. Change the water frequently to prevent the possibility of contamination. On your walk, take a pet water bottle with fresh clean water.

If you can, **go swimming** with your dog! Play fetch with the many water toys available. This way you and your pet can keep cool.

If your pet is outside during the day consider investing in a **Cooling Bed** or **Gel Pet Mat**.

Make sure you provide a **shaded area** for your dog's safety. You may want to get a pen that has a top cover.

Help regulate your dog's body temperature by **trimming** their coat.

Give your dog **something to play with and chew on** to relieve boredom, especially if they will be alone for some time. Chew toys and squeaky toys provide hours of positive, focused activity for dogs. . . And interactive fetch toys like balls or Frisbees are great for exercise.

Spend as much **time** with your pet as you can. Dogs need human interaction and attention. If left alone for too long, they may get insecure which could lead to behavior problems.

This is a great time of the year for everyone, with lots to do. Don't forget to include your pets in the family activities. Everyone will be Happy!



Brutus and Ginger know how to stay cool when it's hot!