

POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES

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Summer Safety Tips For Your Pet

Although summer is a favorite time of year, it is a season that's filled with an array of potentially deadly dangers for your pet. So while you're having fun in the sun and making memories with your pets this summer, make sure you also take the following precautions to safeguard your beloved four-legged buddies from harm.

Hot Weather Tips



- Try to keep your pets indoors as much as possible during the hot summer months. Heatstroke can be deadly for your pet, just as it would be for you, and every year, animals die after being left outdoors in extreme heat.
- If your pets have to be outside for ANY period of time, provide them with shade, shelter, and plenty of extra water.

Never Leave Your Pet In The Car

- DO NOT leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time in the summer. On warm days, the temperature in your car can rise to 120 degrees in minutes, even with the windows slightly open. Also, an animal left alone in a car is an open invitation to pet thieves.

Make Sure Your Pet Has Proper Identification

- Microchips and collar tags are your pet's ticket home, should she become lost.
 - Your pet should be wearing a collar at ALL times (EVEN INDOOR PETS). You should be able to slip no more than two fingers beneath the collar. This collar should have a tag with your pet's name and your home phone number. You can have a tag made in less than 5 minutes at virtually any pet store for about \$6.
 - Your pet should also be microchipped. If your pet isn't already chipped, make an appointment with your veterinarian right away. It's an inexpensive, easy procedure that takes just minutes and could save your pet's life.

Heartworm Prevention

- Heartworm, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal to dogs and cats. Ask your veterinarian if your pet should be tested for and/or taking heartworm medication.

Safe Travel

- If you plan to travel with your pet this summer, plan your trip early, so that you can identify lodging that will allow pets.
- If you travel by car, restrain your dog with a safety harness in the back seat, and place your cat in a carrier in the back seat.

- Make sure to travel with plenty of water, and with a pet emergency kit.
- Don't allow your animals to stick their heads out of the car window, as they can be hit with debris.
- Never allow your animal to ride in the back of a pick-up truck for any reason. This is illegal in many states, and is extremely dangerous.
- Never leave your pet unattended in the car – see above.

Pets And Pools Don't Mix

- To safeguard your pet from accidental drowning, keep your pet away from pools, and, if you allow your pet in the water, supervise him or her at all times.

Fourth Of July Safety

- See Indiana-PAW's separate flyer on this topic, at www.indiana-paw.com
- But briefly:
 - On the Fourth of July, bring your pets in with you, or put them in a sheltered, quiet area.
 - Do not take your pets to fireworks displays – pets can easily become frightened and may bolt, becoming lost and/or killed.
 - Don't leave your pets outside, even in a fenced yard, as they may panic and escape or become tangled in their chain, resulting in death.
 - If you plan to go away for the holiday, leave your pet with a pet sitter or boarding kennel.

Fertilizers/Insecticides/Poisonous Plants

- Fertilizers, insecticides, and more than 700 types of plants can be fatal if your pet ingests them.
- Don't allow your pet to walk on lawns or in gardens that are treated with these products, until the product has completely dried.
- Make sure that the plants in your yard are not toxic to animals. (The Humane Society of the United States has a list of dangerous plants at www.hsus.org.)

Suggested Reading

- The Humane Society of the United States, "Summer Care Tips For You & Your Pets," http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/summer_care_tips_for_you_and_your_pets/
- ASPCA, "ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Warns Pet Owners: Summer Is The Deadliest Time of Year For Companion Animals," http://www.asPCA.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8335&security=2142&AddInterest=TRUE&AddInterest=TRUE&news_iv_ctrl=1400&AddInterest=TRUE

Important Note: Indiana-PAW's POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES is intended to provide quick tips to help citizens address common pet health and behavior questions. It is not intended to replace consultation with one's veterinarian and/or a trained behavior specialist.