

SUMMER TIME SAFETY FOR PETS

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. The City of Palm Coast offers these tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this summer.

THE SAFE CHOICE IS TO LEAVE YOUR PET AT HOME.

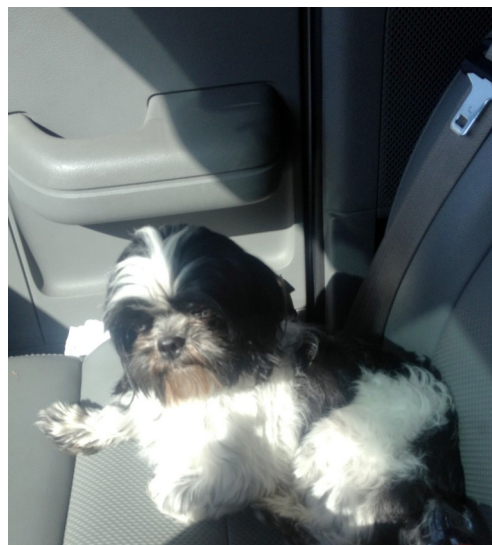
In 30 minutes the inside of your car, even with the windows cracked, can reach 120 degrees! Dogs can not sweat and will suffer from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, brain damage, and can even die. It is not ok for even a couple of minutes to leave your pet in the car in the summer time.

HEAT EXHAUSTION— Always provide plenty of water and shade for your pets while they're enjoying the great outdoors so they can stay cool and healthy.

POOL SAFETY - Pets and pools can equal disaster. Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool.

TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET—Take the time to prepare for your furry friends in advance. Many airlines have a summer pet embargoes, and most trains and ships do not allow pets other than services animals.

SUMMER IS OFTEN A TIME WHEN PEOPLE FERTILIZE THEIR LAWNS AND WORK IN GARDENS. But beware: Plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In addition more than 700 plants are toxic to your pets.



DOG BITES OCCURE MORE OFTEN with people and dogs spending more time outside. *Spaying and Neutering* your dog reduces the likelihood that he will bite and provides many health benefits.

MAKE SURE YOUR PET IS ALWAYS WEARING A COLLAR AND ID TAGS. If you are separated from your pet, an ID tag may very well be her ticket home. An updated Microchip will also help get them home.

HEARTWORM DISEASE— Check with our veterinarian to see if your pets should be taking heartworm prevention medication. Mosquitoes transmit heartworm to your pets, which can be fatal.

IT IS VERY DANGEROUS, AND IN SOME STATES ILLEGAL, TO DRIVE WITH YOUR DOG IN THE BACK OF A PICK-UP TRUCK. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury, but a dog may be unintentionally thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the breaks, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a secured crate in the bed of a truck.