



crate and should not be allowed to freely roam inside a moving vehicle. Walking and hiking are beneficial activities for most dogs, provided the dog is not over-exerted, kept on a leash, and offered sufficient food and water. Swimming is also enjoyable for many dogs, with a few important precautions. Although most dogs have a natural ability to swim, some cannot. Dogs should never be forced to swim and should be supervised closely any time they are near bodies of water. Once the dog is out of the water, he or she should be promptly dried.



Thank you
for caring!



Contact Us.

P.O. Box 340
Charles Town, WV 25414-0340
(304) 725-0506

Learn More.

www.nhes.org

Like Us.

 TheNHES

SUMMER CARE TIPS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS



The summer months can also present health hazards to cats and dogs in the form of insects. In some areas, populations of fleas, ticks, and mosquitos rise in warm weather. Fleas not only cause uncomfortable, itchy skin—but also transmit disease, tapeworms, viruses, and bacteria to cats and dogs. In addition, fleas can also cause serious allergic reactions in some animals. Meanwhile, ticks can cause diseases including Lyme disease and Rocky-Mountain Spotted Fever. Mosquitos are best known for spreading heartworm in both dogs and cats. Fortunately, all of these conditions are preventable. To keep your animals safe from insects and the diseases they carry, talk to a veterinarian about flea/tick and heartworm preventative. Lastly, safety should take priority while traveling and recreating with companion animals. When traveling, cats and dogs should be kept in a secured travel

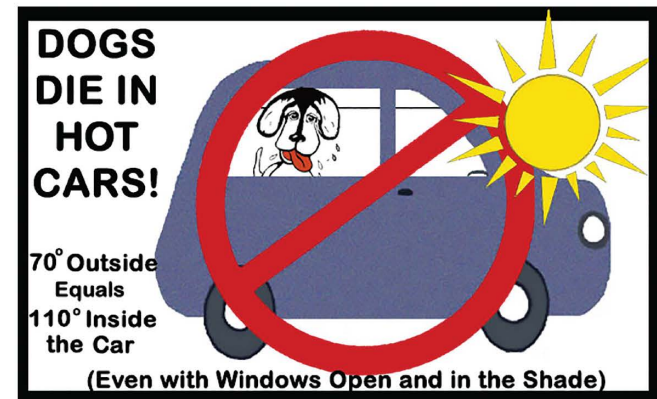




Summer Care Tips

While summer months bring plenty of opportunities for fun, owners must also be informed about the season's greatest hazards for companion animals. These threats include heat exhaustion and heatstroke, insect-borne disease, and travel hazards.

As summer temperatures rise, owners of companion animals must heighten their vigilance against the threats of heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Heat exhaustion is a serious medical condition that occurs when an animal becomes too hot. Heat exhaustion that has progressed to the point that the animal can no longer self-cool is known as heatstroke. If untreated, heatstroke results in unconsciousness and possibly death. The best way to protect companion animals from heat exhaustion and heatstroke is to ensure they don't become overheated. Owners should always provide plenty of shade and fresh drinking water, ensuring water bowls do not tip over. Owners should also monitor the outdoor temperature and their companion animal's behavior for warning signs like heavy panting and lethargy—two common symptoms of heat exhaustion. Try offering dogs a shallow, outdoor kiddie pool filled with water and a few floatable dog toys. Make sure the dog can easily step in and out of the pool, supervise dogs playing in the pool, and remember to empty the pool when done for the day.



Owners must never leave animals unattended inside a vehicle on a warm day. Even on days when the outdoor temperature seems only slightly warm, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise to dangerously high levels in a rapid period of time. For example, if the outside temperature is a breezy 75 degrees, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise to over 115 degrees in a matter of minutes. Even rolling the windows completely down cannot stop the temperature from rising to dangerous levels inside a vehicle. Heat exhaustion and heatstroke can occur anywhere that is too hot for an animal to maintain normal body temperature, including outdoor areas, garages, and even interior rooms that become too hot. Dogs who are continuously chained outdoors are particularly vulnerable.

Though prevention is best, owners must also be prepared to provide first aid to pets showing symptoms of heat exhaustion. An animal who is panting, lethargic, and suspected to be too hot must be brought into a shaded, preferably air conditioned, area and offered cool (not cold) drinking water. The animal can also be wrapped in cool, damp towels or lightly sprayed with cool water. Afterwards, the animal will need to be examined by a veterinarian to ensure stable body temperature and normal body function. Lastly, anyone who witnesses an unattended animal in a vehicle or any animal at risk of heat exhaustion should call 911 or the local sheriff's office immediately for help.