

Pets and Vehicles

All pets will probably have to take some car trips during their lives – getting them home, vet appointments, moving – and some take more than others, for hiking trips or to visit places. But as with humans, precautions should be taken.

In the summer, you may take your pet somewhere and realize you have to run into a non-pet friendly place. But the internal temperature of a vehicle can quickly climb to unsafe levels, endangering your pet.

So never leave your pet in the car. It doesn't matter if the car is in shade or has its windows partially open – it could cause heat stroke or death for your pet.

If you are traveling with someone, they can put the pet on a leash or move the carrier outside. If alone, you might have to forego your errand.

A note on restraint:

Pets should be restrained in some fashion while riding in a car – should you get into an accident, they will perform similar functions as a seatbelt for humans. And a restrained pet can not distract you by climbing on or under you while the vehicle is in motion.

If you have a bed, like in a pickup truck, your pet should not be riding in it. It is not safe, and the pet could be harmed.

Poisonous plants

Some plants cause adverse reactions in pets, ranging from skin irritations to breathing problems and death. These plants should be avoided.

Dogs: Typical houseplants that are bad for dogs include the following: Pothos, Corn Stalk Plant, Philodendron, Asparagus Fern, Dieffenbachia, and Schefflera. Typical yard plants that are bad for dogs include the following: Oleander, Bird of Paradise, Calla Lilly, English Ivy, Yucca, Heavenly Bamboo, China Berry, Castor Bean, and Marijuana.

Cats: Typical plants that are bad for cats include the following: Amaryllis, Aloe Vera, Apple, Asparagus Fern, Baby's Breath, Belladonna, Black-Eyed Susan, Chrysanthemum, Daffodil (both plant and bulb), Easter Lily, Eggplant, Eucalyptus, Evergreen, Holly, Honeysuckle, Iris, Jasmine, Java Beans, Lily, Lily Spider, Lily of the Valley, Marigold, Mistletoe, Morning Glory, Mushrooms, Onion, Oriental Lily, Philodendron, Pointsetta, Poppy, Potato, Rhododendron, Rhubarb, Rubber Plant, Sweet Pea, Tiger Lily, Tobacco, Tulip (both plant and bulb), Umbrella Plants, and all Yews.

Remember that some plants your pets can get into, while not affecting them, can affect you! So if you are sensitive to pollen or poison ivy or similar, brush or wash your animal before coming back inside if they may have come into contact with any unusual plant.

Summer Care Tips for You and Your Pet



PLACE YOUR TOWN INFORMATION HERE

Heatstroke and your pets

Like humans, pets can succumb to the deleterious effects of heat upon their bodies. Like humans, this occurs when the animal absorbs more heat than it can dissipate safely. Unlike humans, animals have more limited means of dissipating this heat; because of their fur, cats and dogs can only sweat through their paws. Their only other method of dissipating heat is panting.

Your animal is at risk in similar situations as a human – hot, humid weather is a risk factor, as is not having shade when the sun is intense. Inadequate ventilation is also a risk factor. Obese pets are at greater risk than normal weight pets – so if your pet is obese, consider exercise and diet to control this risk.

In cats, the normal body temperature is around 101 degrees Fahrenheit, and heatstroke refers to temperatures above 103 degrees. A cat may die if its internal temperature reaches 108.5 degrees.

In dogs, the normal body temperature is around 101 – 102 degrees Fahrenheit, and heatstroke refers to temperatures above 103 degrees. A dog may die if its internal temperature reaches 106 degrees. Dogs noses should be cool and wet – if it is hot and dry there may be a problem.

Heatstroke is a serious potential problem – but do not become paranoid. Everyone seems to have known that cat who lay in the sun on the hot pavement and was fine. Given shade and water, the pet will move when it gets hot.

How do you tell if your pet is suffering heatstroke?

The following symptoms should be looked out for in pets: acute rapid panting, drooling, weakness or unsteady movements, staggering, glazed eyes and rapid pulse, or a deep purple tongue. Your pet may appear frightened or alarmed.

Step one is to get them out of the situation that led to the heat sickness, and indoors in air conditioning if possible. Lay them down on a cool surface and pour cool (not cold) water on exposed skin under the belly, and provide cool (not cold) drinking water for the pet.

Your goal should be lowering the temperature a few degrees, to between 103 and 104 – cooling too rapidly or too fast could be harmful.

If you can cool them while at the same time transporting them to the nearest animal hospital, do so. If you cannot, you will still want to take the animal to the vet to be checked out.

If you see a pet in a locked car over summer, and it is obviously in distress, go inside the store to alert the store management. If the owner cannot be found immediately, call local animal control or the police.

Dehydration

Dehydration is another serious risk. To mitigate, make sure your pet has cool fresh water at all times. Be sure the water is not in sunlight, because it could get dangerously hot, and is changed often.

Summer Treats for Pets

Frozen Peanut Butter Popsicles for Dogs

1 Ripe Banana
½ Cup peanut butter
2 Tsp honey
32 oz plain yogurt

Mash banana, and mix in peanut butter, honey, and yogurt. Pour into an ice cube tray, freeze for 3 or more hours, and give to pet to enjoy a cool treat. The extra can be stored in the freezer.

Cat Cookies

2 Cups Whole Wheat Flour
1 tsp catnip
1/3 cup Whiskas cat milk or similar
1/3 cup powdered milk
2 Tablespoons butter
¼ cup soy flour
1 egg
1 Tablespoon Unsulfured Molasses

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Mix dry ingredients together. Add wet – molasses, egg, butter, and milk – and mix to combine. Roll out onto oiled cookie sheet and cut into small cat bite size pieces.

Bake 20 minutes and let cool. Store in a sealed container in refrigerator.

If cat is lactose intolerant, use lactose free milk.