

SUMMER SAFETY FOR PETS

- Never leave pets in parked cars on hot or sunny days. Temperatures inside cars can rise dangerously high in minutes. Pets will suffer needlessly and could die when left in a car on even a warm day.
- Always bring cool, fresh water when traveling with your pet.
- A day at the beach is a bad idea unless you can guarantee a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for your pet. Always supervise a pet in the water.
- Be especially sensitive to older and overweight pets in hot weather. Snub-nosed dogs, as well as those with heart or lung disease, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.
- It is very dangerous, and illegal in Provincetown, to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck unless the sides of the bed are 48" or more. Ideally, dogs should ride either in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.
- Plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In addition, many plants produce toxic substances in sufficient amounts to cause harmful effects in animals.
- People and dogs spend more time outside in the summer, so dog bites are likely to increase. Spaying or neutering your dog reduces the likelihood that he will bite and provides many other health benefits.
- Make sure your pet is always wearing a collar and identification tag. You might also consider micro-chipping your pet.
- Don't take your pets to crowded summer events. The loud noises and crowds combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous for pets.
- Check with your veterinarian to see if your pets should be taking heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal in both dogs and cats.

- Pets need exercise even when it is hot, but extra care needs to be taken with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.
- Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.
- Pets can get sunburned too, and your pet may require sunscreen on her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.
- Your pet can suffer from heat exhaustion and heat stroke. These conditions are very serious. Signs include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue. If your pet does become overheated, you need to immediately lower his body temperature. Move your pet into the shade and apply cool (not cold) water over his head, neck and chest. Let your pet drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes and get him to a veterinarian immediately.
- Causing an animal to be subjected to unnecessary cruelty or suffering is illegal in Massachusetts and is punishable by imprisonment for up to one year and a fine of up to \$1000.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

- Provincetown Police: 911 or 508.487.1212
- Herring Cove Animal Hospital: 508.487.6449 – 83 Shank Painter Road
- Eastham Veterinary Hospital: 508.255.0149 - the closest examination facility with emergency equipment on site – 725 State Highway (Route 6) – 35 minutes away (25 miles)
- Cape Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE) Center: 508.398.7575 – a veterinary emergency care and referral center - 79 Theophilus Smith Road