

PET CONNECTION

SEASONAL CONCERNS FOR YOUR PET

Summer is here, and so is the warmer weather. We all love to take our pets with us wherever we go, even if it is on a short errand. But as the days get warmer, the interior of your car or truck can quickly become dangerously hot. The heat can build up quickly and put pets left unattended at grave risk for heatstroke or worse.

Keep a close eye on your companions not only with car rides but also in these applications:

Other Heat Risks

- Limit exercise to the coolest part of the day like early mornings and late evenings.
- Watch for signs of trouble, glassy eyes, frantic panting, and fatigue.
- Older, obese and short nosed dogs are less tolerant of heat.
- All pets need access to shade and cool, clean water.

Gardening Risks

- Always protect your pet from poisonous plants and yard chemicals.
- Follow directions on fertilizers and pesticides and allow lawn chemicals to dry fully before allowing any animal access to your yard.
- Check with the Animal Poison Control Center to be sure your plantings are pet safe. (www.aspca.org/apcc)

Field Risks

- Always check your pet for ticks after a day in the field.
- Remove ticks by firmly gripping it as close to the base as possible and pull out with a slow and steady motion.
- Preventative options such as Frontline and Lyme vaccinations should be discussed with your veterinarian.
- Not all ticks carry Lyme disease.

- Also remember to check your pet for thorns and foreign bodies.
- Thorns can burrow deep into the flesh and may need to be removed by your veterinarian.

Heartworm

Heartworm is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes. The mosquito will pick up the heartworm larvae called microfilaria when they draw blood from an infected animal. The mosquito will then bite another animal and pass the disease on. When in the new host, (your pet) the larvae make their way to the heart, where they grow, blocking the flow of blood and causing severe damage and possibly death. You may notice your animal coughing at night, coughing after exercise, or experiencing exercise intolerance. Preventative care remains an essential part of your pet's well-being. Monthly heartworm preventative has been shown to be safe and effective for all pets. Please contact your veterinarian for more information.