



Allandale Vet Clinic Summer Newsletter 2010

Summer Time!

We all know that Texas summers are intensely hot. The high temperatures are here and many times climb into the triple digits. Our furry friends should not be forgotten. They too experience sunburns, heat exhaustion, and dehydration. A dog's pads can burn during a midday walk on concrete. Unfortunately, our pets cannot prevent these things from happening to them. We as owners can be of assistance by knowing what to look for and how to help. Signs of heat stress and exhaustion are:

- Weakness
- Loss of balance
- Excessive panting and drooling
- Bright red tongue and gums

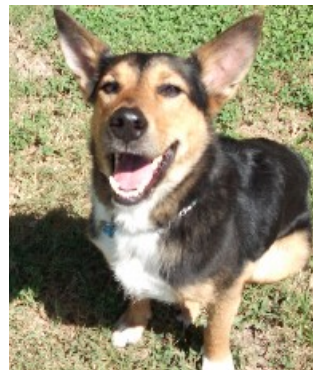
If these signs are ignored and the pet is not allowed to cool down symptoms may quickly progress to heat stroke which is a medical emergency. Seek attention immediately if you see:

- Dizziness
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Collapse

Heat exhaustion can quickly become heat stroke, which is a medical emergency. A dog and cat's normal body temperature is 100.5-102.5 degrees. They are always warmer than us and are less effective at sweating. Excess body heat is expelled through the paw pads and through panting. A temperature of 106 is considered an emergency and pet should be brought to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Vital organs cannot continue working when the temperature reaches 108 to 110 degrees. The pet should be cooled down while traveling to the veterinarian by wrapping in cool towels and applying ice packs to aid in decreasing body temperature. More ways to cool down an overheated pet are:

- Offer water and/or ice cubes
- Bring into shade or air-conditioned room.
- Rinse with cool (not cold) water
- Cats may be wrapped in a cold, wet towel, which is less stressful than spraying or dunking.
- Direct a fan at a damp pet
- Apply cold packs under abdomen, forelegs (armpits), and back of neck
- Apply rubbing alcohol to paw pads

The summer brings good times to our furry friends and us. However it is important to be responsible and prepared. Extra cold packs, water, sun block for pets, and a digital thermometer can be lifesavers for your pet.



Traveling with your pet!

For many, summertime means one thing: vacation. Pet owners are often keen on bringing their pets along, choosing instead to travel with a four-legged companion instead of relying on kennels and petsitting. Of course some animals would rather stay home and avoid the car altogether, but great fun can be had for both you and your pet on the road.

Pets enjoy the sight and smells of a fresh place and travel can be a perfect opportunity to bond with your companion animal. Certain precautions should be taken before considering taking any pets along for trips.

A large safety hazard is the unrestrained pet. Given free reign in a moving vehicle is potentially deadly for both driver and passengers of all species. Loose animals in the car, regardless of how well behaved, should be secured lest they decide to explore the area behind the brake pedal. This rule applies to both cats and dogs—they ought to be as secure as possible by an animal restraint device or a carrier.

To ensure both you and your pet enjoy your vacation remember to follow these basic rules:

- Break often for water and bathroom breaks
- Feed a smaller amount of food before travel to avoid stomach upset
- Only provide sedatives if your veterinarian has deemed medication appropriate
- Keep photocopies of vaccination history handy, as collar tags are insufficient verification.

- Take stock of your pet often and seek medical attention as needed during your travels.



While being in a foreign environment is exciting for your pet you must always remember to keep an eye out for anything your pet could try to consume or get into. Following these basic tenets will allow you and your pet to enjoy your time away. Above all it is essential to pay attention to any signs of stress, anxiety or illness in your pet and provide timely care. By adhering to these measures and discussing your plans with your veterinarian, you can be sure both you and your pet have a wonderful vacation!