

Summer Safety Tips

These wonderful summer days, that we wait for all year long, offer outdoor activities that can be enjoyed by both you and your puppy. Many opportunities are available for socialization experiences. Before you head out with your puppy, review the following guidelines and keep your puppy safe:

- Limit exposure to the sun since excessive exposure can cause sunburn and burnt paw pads.
- Check your puppy's water bowl frequently to ensure that an adequate, clean supply of fresh water is available.
- Heat stroke can be caused by excessive exertion on a hot day. Do not heavily exercise your puppy on a hot humid day. Exercise your puppy in moderation early in the morning or later in the evening.
- Lack of proper ventilation in a car or at home can also cause heat stroke. Never leave your puppy in a vehicle on a hot day. Vehicles can reach temperatures of 120 F in 30 seconds.
- When you leave your puppy home in a crate, be sure the room is well ventilated and the crate is out of the sun for the period of time that you are gone.
- Refrain from taking your puppy to fairs, carnivals, dog shows and festivals. Observe the situation from the puppy's point of view. On a hot day, walking on gravel, concrete and dirt can make any puppy uncomfortable. Add loud music, people running, children laughing and shouting. Finally, food is everywhere! Combining all of these conditions does not add up to a success story for you and your puppy. A better outcome is realized by leaving your puppy at home in a crate. Your puppy can get appropriate exposures without the dangers associated with heat and humidity. Watching traffic and people plus working on under footings and stairs can be done either early in the morning or later in the evening.
- When in doubt about taking your puppy on an outing, contact your Region Coordinator.