

Hazards of Summer for Pets

Now the weather is getting warmer and we are undertaking more outdoor activities, it is essential to take the welfare of our pets into consideration. Below are some hazards to be aware of.

Heatstroke

It is very easy for our pets to overheat in the summer, so it is essential that they are provided with some shade and fresh water at all times. If your pet exhibits signs of heatstroke it is important to obtain veterinary assistance. Do not leave pets in cars, conservatories or caravans. Signs of heatstroke include:

- Excessive panting
- Excessive salivation
- Signs of distress
- Collapse

Cliff-Edge Walks

These are often great fun with beautiful views. Always keep your dog on a lead as many coastal paths do not have fencing and it is easy for your pet to go over the edge.

Farm Animals and Wildlife

Ensure you are aware of your surroundings and keep dogs on leads around farm animals. Many areas have ground nesting species so ensure that your dogs are under control to avoid disturbing them.

BBQ Hazards

- Do not feed your pets any scraps or leftovers as these can upset their stomachs.
- Alcohol should not be given to pets.
- Keep any fuel out of reach of your pets and ensure that they do not have access to the flames.



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The Beach

Before taking your dog to the beach, ensure that they are allowed to be there, many beaches are closed to dogs during the summer months. Other hazards include:

- **Rocks and tides** – always make sure you are aware of high tide times and rocky areas can cut your pets feet.
- **Salt water** – a lot of dogs try and catch the sea in their mouths, drinking sea water can lead to diarrhoea and vomiting.
- **Remember** to keep your dog cool on the beach, they can quickly overheat and develop heatstroke. Always take plenty of fresh drinking water.
- **Jellyfish** – can cause nasty painful stings to our pets as well as us. If your pet is stung around the facial and mouth area this could lead to swelling of the airway and your pet having difficulty breathing.
- **Rubbish** left on the beach is a real hazard. Glass can cut their paws and any leftover foods may cause stomach upset leading to vomiting or diarrhoea.
- **Swimming** is great exercise but make sure your pet is supervised at all times and not allowed to go too deep or close to rocks and cliffs.



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Hazard of Summer for Pets continued...

Rabbits, Small Mammals and Birds

- Keep any enclosures out of direct sunlight, ensure that shade is provided.
- Ensure that they have access to fresh water at all times, ice cubes can help.
- Be careful with rabbits and guinea pigs kept outside to ensure they and their housing are kept clean to avoid fly strike.

Pet Theft

Pet theft is on the rise and pets can be stolen from your home as well as when out on a walk. The following guidelines will help you stay safe:

- Make sure your house is secure
- Always supervise your dog, even when in the garden; this is more difficult for cats
- It is the law to have your dog microchipped, but this is also highly recommended for cats. Ensure that all details are up to date with PetLog as well as your veterinary practice
- NEVER tie your dog up whilst shopping or out and leave unattended
- Keep an eye on your dog whilst out walking, if possible, keep close or on a lead
- If you think your pet has been stolen contact the police and ask for a Crime Reference Number (CRN)

Microchip your Pet today. See online for more details and ways to contact us, visit ottervets.co.uk

Ticks

In summer, ticks are very prevalent. They feed by biting an animal and sucking the blood. Once they have had enough, they drop off.

Ticks can transmit infections and cause disease, so it is advised that pet owners do the following:

- Ensure your pet is treated with a preventative product, available from your veterinary surgery
- Carry a tick remover, also available from your veterinary surgery
- Check your dog after every walk to ensure that ticks are located and safely removed.