

# Summer Pet Hazards



It's Summer Time! Bring on the swimming pools, barbeques, and family vacations. Don't let a trip to the ER Vet spoil your time spent in the sand and sun. Longwood Veterinary Center wants you to consider the following pet tips for a safe and sunny summer!

## 1. Heat and Humidity

Most pets don't perspire like humans, but use their lungs to get rid of excess heat. As the temperature and humidity rise, their ability to cool in this manner can fail and they could suffer from heat stroke. Common signs of heat stroke include rapid heart rate, heavy and noisy breathing, dazed appearance, glazed eyes, drooling or vomiting, and collapse. If your pet shows any of these signs bathe him with cool, not cold, water and seek immediate veterinary care.

Pets should not be left in a car on a hot day. The inside of a car quickly reaches 160 degrees!

Ever heard the expression, "It's so hot, you can fry an egg on the sidewalk"? Things like black pavement (or asphalt) can get very hot and can harm your pets' paws. Stick to shaded routes and schedule walks for cooler times of the day.

## 2. Ticks

With all of the time your pet will be spending outdoors, one of the biggest dangers is ticks. Ticks carry a number of diseases, including Lyme disease. We recommend you check your pet for ticks at least once a day, and look thoroughly after walks through wooded areas. Remember to use your flea/tick prevention of choice on time year round!

What should you do if you find a tick? Look through the ASPCA's guide: [How to Remove a Tick from Your Pet](#). Don't freak out! We run an in-house tick panel each year, so we will be able to catch any exposure. Familiarize yourself with some common signs of illness like: fever, acute lameness, joint pain, anorexia, lethargy, etc. and consult your Longwood veterinarian if any start occurring.

## 2. Salt Water

While it's probably not at the top of your toxin lists, salt water is dangerous! Excessive intake can result in severe hyponatremia, or salt poisoning. Help avoid the problem by carrying a fresh bottle of tap water and offering it to your dog frequently while he's frolicking on the beach.



## 3. Slug and Snail Baits

The active ingredient in slug and snail bait is typically metaldehyde, which is toxic to all species (particularly dogs). When ingested, metaldehyde results in clinical signs that resulted in the nickname "shake and bake." Within 1 to 2 hours of ingestion, clinical signs of salivation, restlessness, vomiting, and incoordination are seen, which then progress to tremors, seizures, and secondary severe hyperthermia. Generally, the prognosis is favorable if treatment is quickly and aggressively implemented.

## 4. Ice Cubes

While not a toxin. Allowing your pet to chew on ice cubes, can lead to some broken teeth. Try crushed ice instead or add a frozen water bottle to their bowl if you want to keep it extra cold!

## 5. Flea/Tick Products on Cats

Take the time to read the product label before applying topical flea and tick products to pets, especially cats. There are a number of "spot on" products on the market labeled "for use in dogs only". Inappropriate use of these products on cats can result in illness and death.

## 6. Bee Stings

Buzz. Buzz. It may be a cautionary sound to us, but your pets may want to investigate. And while curiosity may not kill the cat (or dog), it can get them stung. So what should you do? Call your vet who can suggest an office visit if irritation or swelling are severe, or prescribe an over-the-counter medicine. Some OTCs are harmful to pets though, so never dispense them on your own.



## 7. 4<sup>th</sup> of July/ Barbeques

While we can't wait to gather with friends, cook out, and enjoy a cold beverage, there are many things pets can get into at a barbeque that could cause quite a problem.

- **Barbeque Sauce:** This slow-cooked delight can cause non-delightful diarrhea in dogs.
- **Corn on the Cob.** Dogs often have difficulty digesting corn cobs and it can be a choking hazard.
- **Fruits with pits.** Peaches, avocados and other pitted fruit can be choking hazards.
- **Food with bones:** they may splinter and hurt the GI system, sometimes even piercing the bowels.
- **Foods with toothpicks or skewers:** can pierce the intestines.
- **Ice cream:** A little of any flavor is fine for most dogs, but it may not agree with all dogs, especially if they have sensitive stomachs.

And don't forget the fireworks. Did you know that this is the number one time of year for lost pets? Fireworks can be particularly frightening. Keep them in a safe and secure space. It's always a good time to double check their microchip registration for any updates as well. Never let dogs chase fireworks- this can result in thermal or chemical burns to the paws, mouth, or face.

Go ahead, bask in the sun! But recognize your pet's limits and stay in the AC when it's just too sweltering.

Information Obtained From: <https://www.care.com/c/stories/6266/9-summer-dangers-for-pets/>

