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Spring / Summer Pet Newsletter

DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS!

Never leave a dog in a car in warm weather!

A car parked in the shade on a day when the environmental temperature is 26°C can reach 32°C in minutes!

A car parked in the sun will reach 82°C!

A dog can contract heat stroke in 15 minutes and suffer severe brain damage.

After 20 minutes the animal will die!

Travelling in the car: Think about whether the

journey for your dog is absolutely necessary. Make sure your dog has plenty of space in the car and isn't squashed or forced to sit in direct sunlight. Ensure that there is plenty of ventilation.

Make sure plenty of stops are taken with lots of water available to drink.

Take cold water in a thermos rather than a plastic bottle so it stays cold rather than being luke warm. Ice cubes are helpful in a thermos for cooling too.

Sun screens on the windows will offer protection from direct sunlight.

Avoid the midday heat by travelling early or late in the day.

You can use a misting spray to keep your dog cool, but avoid his face.

NEVER

Leave a dog unattended in a car, even with the window open and water available. Take them out of the car and find a secure, cool place with access to shade and water.

Let your dog take part in unnecessary exertion, or stand in exposed sunlight for extended lengths of time.

HEAT STROKE IN PETS

As well as cats and dogs, small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs are vulnerable to heat stroke.

Animals can suffer fatal heatstroke within minutes.

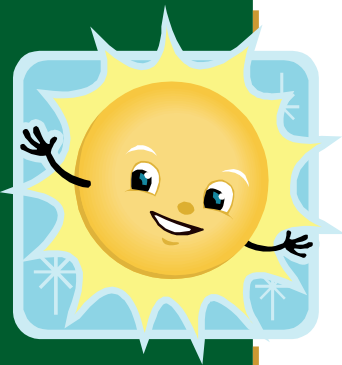
Signs of heat stroke: heavy panting, increased saliva production, lack of co-ordination and collapse.

If you suspect your animal is suffering, start treatment by placing it in the shade where there is good air flow. Wet towels

with cool water and place them over the animal.

Contact your vet Immediately!

[Tips to keep your pet cool in hot weather on following pages...](#)



The hottest part of the day is 11am to 3pm

"You should NEVER leave your pet unattended in a car on a hot day ...EVER!"



Tips To Keep Your Pets Cool In Hot Weather.

- Your pet needs access to clean, fresh and cool water at all times, ideally in a large bowl filled to the brim, two or three bowls if needed. Older animals, particularly cats, are vulnerable to dehydration.
 - Make sure there is a shaded spot in the garden or a cool well ventilated porch out of direct sunlight.
 - Don't walk your dogs during the hottest part of the day (11am to 3pm), choose early morning or evening. Walk your dog somewhere you know there are lots of trees and shaded areas. Avoid fields.
 - When walking your dog, make sure you have a large bottle of cool water with you at all times for if your dog does get hot. Offer small, regular drinks. Don't forget your dog needs fresh water if you're at the beach – drinking seawater is likely to make your dog ill.
 - Be careful what type of surface you walk your dog on. Some pavements and sands can burn your dog's paws if really hot.
 - You should NEVER leave your pet unattended in a car on a hot day, EVER!
 - Pale-coloured dogs and cats are vulnerable to sunburn; particularly their ears, noses and sparsely haired areas. Sun damage can lead to skin cancer which may require extensive surgery, even amputation in severe cases. The best prevention is to keep your pet indoors when the sun is strongest, between 11.00am and 3.00pm. Alternatively, cover vulnerable areas or regularly apply a high factor, pet friendly sun block. Seek prompt veterinary advice if your pet's skin looks sore, crusty or scaly.
 - Grooming is important, especially for long-haired animals. A tangle-free coat will protect your pet's delicate skin and keep them cool.
- Some animals may need their coats trimming – seek advice from a professional groomer.

CATS

- Read the label on pest control products - Slug pellets which contain metaldehyde can prove fatal to cats, so make sure any pest control products are safe for felines.
- Take care with barbecues - If you are planning to enjoy some al-fresco dining during the summer, make sure barbecue coals are properly cooled with water as your cat can suffer nasty burns if he or she jumps onto them once you are finished.
- Check your plants and flowers are feline friendly - Certain plants and flowers can be toxic to cats, particularly lilies - even if your cat simply brushes against them before licking the pollen from its fur. Avoid buying lilies, both for outdoor and indoor arrangements, and if you think your cat has eaten or come into contact with any part of a lily, then contact your vet for advice.
- Protect your cat from the sun - Like humans, cats can develop skin cancer from too much sun exposure and certain cats, particularly white and pale cats or those with sparse hair on their ears, are more

Cats continued...

at risk. A high factor, pet friendly sun block can be applied to vulnerable areas such as the ears, but owners should be aware that most cats will clean this off! It is therefore, best to keep your cat indoors or in the shade between 11am and 3pm when the sun is at its hottest.

- Keep the doors of sheds, greenhouses and garages shut - Be careful not to accidentally trap cats inside outbuildings during hot weather.

Small Furrries

- **Flystrike** (myiasis) is a nasty condition that occurs when flies lay their eggs on or near rabbits. These hatch into maggots and then feed on the rabbit – causing pain, severe shock, and often death. It's essential to check your outdoor rabbits – and house rabbits – at least twice a day to make sure they're clean and free from anything that may attract flies. Keep hutches clean and dry, and disinfect them at least once a week. Repellents may help protect your rabbit. If you find any maggots on or near your rabbit contact your vet immediately.

- Position hutches and runs in the shade, moving them as necessary,

and keep them off the ground to improve ventilation.

The best runs have a covered area to provide shade and shelter

- Water should be available around the clock and kept topped up – it will evaporate faster in hot weather (Refresh water at least once a day).

- Give your pet a piece of apple or celery to eat, for added moisture.

- Mist your pet with cool water to help them remain at a comfortable temperature

- Brush out excess fur. If you have a longhaired pet, consider having the coat cropped by a professional groomer.

Horses

- Ensure your horse has access to a shady area in the field, and is protected from flies. Long manes and tails are a natural fly defence, but if you prefer your horse to have a pulled mane and forelock then you could use a fly fringe or mask – watch out for rubbing though. You may also want to use a fine-mesh anti-fly rug and a good quality fly repellent.
- You should monitor your horse's weight all year, but be extra vigilant over the summer when there is plenty of grass. Use a weigh tape and keep

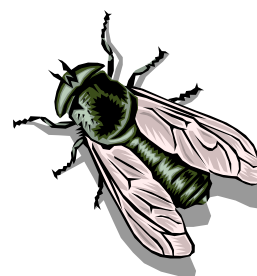
a weekly chart. If you notice a weight gain then restrict grazing hours and/or use a well-fitted muzzle for short periods. If your horse is eating hard feed, consider reducing it or cutting it out.

Remember:

- Horses can suffer from sunburn. Protect exposed, unpigmented, white and pink areas of the skin, like the muzzle, with a suitable hypoallergenic waterproof sun block cream.
- A constant supply of clean, fresh water is essential to prevent dehydration.

- A salt lick will help replace nutrients lost through sweating

- Horses' feet can dry out in warmer weather so keep them well hydrated – your farrier can advise which products to use.





Dunngrove Pet Care

Mandy Dunn

07954 967134

info@dunngrovetcare.co.uk

Dunngrove Pet Care - For all your pets needs!

We are fully insured, experienced dog walking and pet care providers based in Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire. We cover Laurencekirk and the surrounding areas.

Our aim is to provide a friendly and professional pet care service to suit all needs. With 15 years experience, owning and working with animals, we have a sound knowledge and understanding of pet care.

Our Services -
Dog Walking
Dog Day care / Dog Day Visits
Cat Sitting
Small Pet Sitting
Horse Care
House Sitting

Please contact us to book your free consultation and discuss your pets needs further.

Call us on **07954 967134** or visit our website for more information.

www.dunngrovetcare.co.uk

Spring / Summer Gremlins!

TICKS – A particular problem for pets roaming through long grass and woodland areas. Ticks swarm onto passing pets, firmly attaching themselves before feeding on their blood. They also spread diseases including Lymes disease. Use a preventative treatment and take care when removing ticks.

FLEAS – Another cause of great irritation. Keep up with regular flea treatment.

GRASS SEEDS – Grass awns of meadow grass are easily trapped in pet's coats – especially dogs. They then

migrate and become lodged in a variety of places including the ears (causing severe head shaking) and in between toes (causing abscesses). Groom you pet regularly, especially after walks to keep a close eye out for both ticks and grass seeds.

SUN – Pets (especially cats) with white ear tips and noses are at risk of sunburn which can lead to cancerous changes in sunburnt areas. Keep your pet out of the sun from 11am – 3pm. High factor, pet friendly sun block can also be applied to at risk

areas will help minimise risk.

BEEES and **WASPS** – often irresistible to inquisitive pets who may get stung for their troubles! Some stings can cause allergic reactions in pets that swell alarmingly. Seek veterinary advice immediately.

