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SITS & WIGGLES

The Newsletter of the Animal Clinic of Chardon



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for Staying Safe*



DOG DAY OF SUMMER

CHARDON
Ohio

DOG DAY OF SUMMER

Saturday, July 13th, 2024 | 2p - 5p
Chardon Square

Live music,
doggie canvas
painting, free
pup-cups and
dog show with
prizes! We
hope to see
your there!

WARM WEATHER PET SAFETY

Be prepared

- Talk to your veterinarian about warm weather risks for pets (and travel safety if you plan to travel with a pet).
- Make sure your pets have unlimited access to fresh water, and access to shade when outside.
- Keep your pet free of parasites that are more common during warm weather, such as fleas, ticks and heartworm.
- Ask your veterinarian how to recognize signs of heat stress.

Keep pets at home

- Leave your pets at home if possible when you need to go out and about.
- Provide different temperature zones within your house for your pet's comfort.
- Never leave a pet in the car, even in the shade or with windows cracked. Cars can overheat quickly to deadly temperatures, even when the weather isn't severe.

Keep them comfortable

- If it's hot outside for you, it's even hotter for your pet.
- Take walks, hikes or runs during the cooler hours of the day.
- Avoid hot surfaces, such as asphalt, that can burn your pet's paws.
- Ask your veterinarian if your pet would benefit from a warm-weather haircut or other protection.



Exercising with your pet

- Consult your veterinarian prior to starting an exercise program for your pet. Overweight pets and short-nosed dog breeds have higher risk of problems with warm-weather exercise.
- Don't walk, run or hike with a dog during the hottest parts of the day or on particularly warm days.
- Take frequent breaks.
- Bring enough water for both you and your pet.

Garden and yard safety

- Make sure the plants in your garden and yard are safe for pets.
- Store lawn fertilizer and insecticides out of reach of your pets.
- Always follow safety instructions on lawn and garden products, particularly the instructions on how long you should keep pets out of the treated areas.
- If you use a lawn service, make sure they are aware that you have pets.
- Avoid using cocoa bean mulch, which contains the same pet toxin found in chocolate.

SIGNS OF HEAT STRESS

Seek emergency veterinary care if you observe any of these signs:

- Anxiousness
- Excessive panting
- Restlessness
- Excessive drooling
- Unsteadiness
- Abnormal gum and tongue color
- Collapse

FIREWORKS AND YOUR PET: TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE

Break out your grills, lawn chairs and festive food, because it's that time of year again—Independence Day is just around the corner! The Fourth of July is always a great day to celebrate our nation with friends, family and furry ones alike. Like many of us, you may anticipate catching a fireworks show at the end of the evening, or you may be planning to light up the sky yourself. While fireworks are a longstanding tradition for this summer holiday, for some pets, fireworks are not a reason to party, but a reason to panic.

On and around the Fourth of July, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) sees an increase in calls concerning pets who have ingested fireworks, or are having issues due to the loud noises they make. However, with a little planning, you can ensure that your four-legged friends enjoy the holiday just as much as you do.



If your pet has a fear of or aversion to loud noises:

- Something as simple as turning on some soft music and moving your pet into an interior room with no windows can be helpful.
- An anxiety vest may work in some cases—if you don't have one, try a snugly fitting t-shirt.
- If you and your veterinarian do decide that anti-anxiety medication is your pet's best bet, there are a few things to remember. First and foremost, give a practice dose of the medication before the big night to see how your pet responds to the medication. Second, never share the medication with another pet or give more than the recommended amount. If you do, you may end up spending the holiday at your local veterinary emergency clinic.
- While noise phobias are not as common in cats, they can and do happen. Fortunately, cats tend to hide when frightened. Checking in on your cats, having some quiet music on and keeping them indoors during the height of the fireworks is always a good idea.

If your pet is the type to taste new and unusual things:

- While cats are typically a little smarter than this, some dogs will eat anything, regardless of how it tastes—including fireworks! Never underestimate your pet's level of curiosity.
- Fireworks contain several types of chemicals and heavy metals. If you set off fireworks at home, make sure you thoroughly clean up the area before letting your dog have access again.

***When a dog has a fever,
what should you feed
him?
Mustard—it's the best
thing for hot dogs.***

ACOC Birthdays
Dr. Carolyn Askew
7/6

