Warm Weather Safety Tips

You might know that cold weather poses health risks to your pets, but so does warm weather – even on days that don’t seem that hot to you. Knowing the risks and being prepared can help keep your pet safe.

Be Prepared

- Talk to your The Corner Vet 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 sunscreen.

Exercising with Your Pet

- Consult The Corner Vet 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