



Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders



SUMMER SAFETY FOR YOUR PET

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. Here are a few tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this summer:



Heat Stroke:

- ❖ In nice weather you may be tempted to take your pet with you in the car while you travel or do errands. During warm weather, the inside of your car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes, parking in the shade or leaving the windows cracked does little to alleviate this pressure cooker. This can mean real trouble for your companion animals left in the car. Dogs and cats can't perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. Pets, more so than humans, are susceptible to overheating. While people can roll down windows, turn on the air conditioner or exit the vehicle when they become too hot, pets cannot. And pets are much less efficient at cooling themselves than people are.



Dogs, for example, are designed to conserve heat. Their sweat glands, which exist on their nose and the pads of their feet, are inadequate for cooling during hot days. Panting and drinking water helps cool them, but if they only have overheated air to breathe, **dogs can suffer brain and organ damage after just 15 minutes**. Short-nosed breeds, like pugs and bulldogs, young pets, seniors or pets with weight, respiratory, cardiovascular or other health problems are especially susceptible to heat-related stress.

Pets that are left in hot cars even briefly can suffer from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, brain damage, and can even die. Don't think that just because you'll be gone "just a minute"

that your pet will be safe while you're gone; even an air conditioned car with the motor off isn't healthy for your pet. To avoid any chance that you're pet will succumb to the heat of a car this summer, be sure to play it safe by leaving your pet cool and refreshed at home while you're on the road. And if you do happen to see a pet in a car alone during the hot summer months, alert the management of the store where the car is parked. If the owner does not return promptly, call local animal control or the police department immediately. It can be a matter of life and death that the animal gets out of the car immediately.

You should be aware of the signs of heat stress, which could include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue. If your pet does become overheated, you need to immediately lower his body temperature. Move your pet into the shade and apply cool (not cold) water over his body to gradually lower his core body temperature. Apply cold towels or ice packs to your pet's head, neck, and chest only. Let your pet drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Most importantly, get him to a veterinarian immediately.

- ❖ If you leave your pet outside at home be sure to provide plenty of water and shade for your pets while they're enjoying the great outdoors so they can stay cool.



Pick Up Trucks:

- ❖ It is very dangerous, and in some Provinces illegal, to drive with a dog in the back of a pick-up truck. Not only can flying debris cause serious injury, but a dog may be unintentionally thrown into traffic if the driver suddenly hits the brakes, swerves, or is hit by another car. Dogs should ride either in the cab (in a crate or wearing a seat belt harness designed for dogs) or in a secured crate in the bed of the truck.

Fertilizers:

- ❖ Summer is often a time when people fertilize their lawns and work in their gardens. But beware: Plant food, fertilizer, and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In addition, more than 700 plants can produce physiologically active or toxic substances in sufficient amounts to cause harmful effects in animals.

Dog Bites:

- ❖ With people and dogs spending more time outside, dog bites are likely to increase in the summer months. Spaying or neutering your dog reduces the likelihood that he will bite and provides many other health benefits.

Identification:

- ❖ Make sure your pet is always wearing a collar and identification tag. If you are separated from your pet, an ID tag may very well be his or her ticket home.

Heartworms:

- ❖ Check with your veterinarian to see if your pets should be taking heartworm prevention medication. Heartworm disease, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, can be fatal in both dogs and cats.



Pets and Pools:

- ❖ Pets and pools can equal disaster. Prevent free access to pools and always supervise a pet in a pool.

Traveling:

- ❖ If you plan on traveling with your pet during the summer, take the time to prepare for your furry friends in advance. Many airlines have summer pet embargoes, and most trains and ships do not allow pets other than service animals.

Exercise:

- ❖ Pets need exercise even when it is hot, but extra care needs to be taken when it is hot and especially with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.

Fleas & Ticks:

- ❖ Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

Sunburns:

- ❖ Pets can get sunburned too, and your pet may require sunscreen on his or her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.

Events and Crowds:

- ❖ Don't take your pets to crowded summer events such as concerts or fairs. The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous for pets. For your pet's well being, leave her at home. Be especially aware of these threats during holidays where fireworks are being set off.



Fred & Ginger need a new home
URGENTLY - Or a Foster home !!

Two 3 year old cats need a new home together prefer but will go apart if needed - URGENTLY !

They are brother and sister but unfortunately their owner now is going to go work up north in a Mine so has to find them new homes. They are inside only kitties so a home where they can live inside is best for them. Their dad now is moving very soon so homes are needed urgently or even a foster home if anyone is willing to take care of them until a permanent home is found.



They are both extremely affectionate cats and love to cuddle!

For more information please call Pamela 381-4744



Young cat still needs a Permanent Home !!



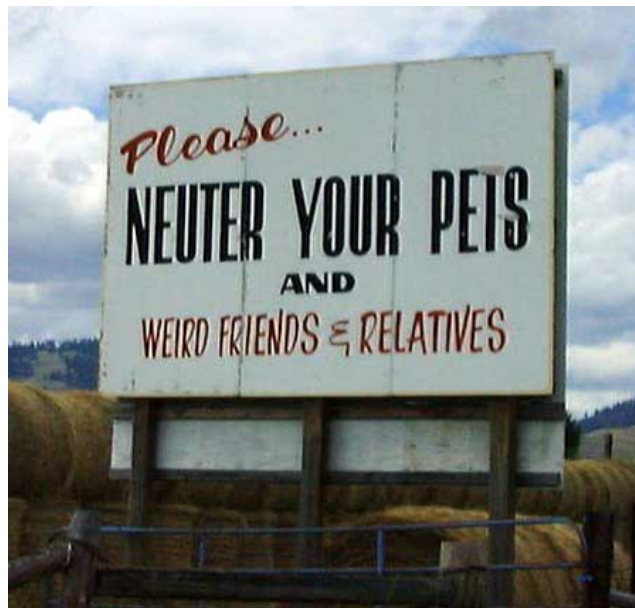
This poor baby was living in a friend's back yard for 3 weeks. We placed a collar on her with our number to see if she had a home but no one ever called.

She is now in foster care but needs a forever home.

She is a young female, spayed and extremely affectionate ! She is completely content being an inside only kitty now because all she wants is attention ! If you want a very

affectionate cat this is the one for you !

For more information please call Pamela 381-4744



"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him"

Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders

"PAWS FOR LIFE"

Dinner & Silent Auction

Date: **Saturday September 24th**

Time: **6:00 PM – 11:00**

Place: **McMorran's Beach House
5109 Cordova Bay Road**

Price: **\$40.00 adult - \$24 child (Huge Buffet)**

Singing Entertainment by : **Natalie Ghos**



Over 300 Items up for Auction

**Purchase Tickets In ADVANCE by
September 20th**

**Tickets go on Sale August 29th at these
Locations:**

Bosley's - 491 Burnside Road East

Bosley's – 107-1790 Island Highway, Colwood

Pets West – 220-777 Royal Oak Drive

Your Pet Pals – 5-100 A Aldersmith Place –

Admirals Walk Centre

Animal Crusaders is a non profit Spay & Neuter Society that also assists with vet costs and care for abandoned and abused animals. For more information call 381-4744 or visit

www.members.shaw.ca/gvac

The Kiss...

The photograph below shows a red Doberman licking an exhausted fireman. He had just saved her from a fire in her house, rescuing her by carrying her out of the house into her front yard, while he continued to fight the fire. She is pregnant.

The firefighter was afraid of her at first, because he had never been around a Doberman before.

When he finally got done putting the fire out, he sat down to catch his breath and rest.

A photographer from the Charlotte, North Carolina newspaper, "The Observer," noticed this red Doberman in the distance looking at the fireman. He saw her walking straight toward the fireman and wondered what she was going to do.

As he raised his camera, she came up to the tired man who had saved her life and the lives of her babies, and kissed him, just as the photographer snapped this photograph.



CRITTERS IN NEED:



Trooper is in desperate need of dental work and it is painful to eat. He has been to the veterinarian and due to urgency his dental surgery is on Tuesday (Aug. 2nd). Donations are urgently needed for this procedure and would be gratefully appreciated. Updates to follow.

**To make a donation to Trooper's dental work please send a cheque to :
GVAC's Special Needs fund and please be sure to put on the cheque that is is
for Trooper re: Special Needs Fund.**

GVAC ~ P.O. BOX 5541, STN. B, VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 6S4



Foster homes are URGENTLY needed !

There are hundreds of cats and kittens without homes this time of year and we are going to have to start turning them away if we don't have places to put them. If you even have a spare room for a cat or kitten to go it is much better than the alternative. Please call 474-5581 if you can take in a cat until we find them a home. A few days or months can make all the difference in their life !

How old is your cat in Human Years ?



CAT	HUMAN		CAT	HUMAN
6 months	12 years	--	13 years	67 years
1 year	16 years	--	14 years	70 years
2 years	24 years	--	15 years	72 years
3 years	28 years	--	16 years	74 years
4 years	32 years	--	17 years	76 years
5 years	36 years	--	18 years	78 years
6 years	40 years	--	19 years	80 years
7 years	44 years	--	20 years	82 years
8 years	48 years	--	22 years	86 years
9 years	52 years	--	24 years	90 years
10 years	56 years	--	26 years	94 years
11 years	60 years	--	28 years	97 years
12 years	64 years	--	30 years	100 years

Did you know ??

A female puppy spayed before her first heat cycle can expect never to develop a mammary tumor of any kind. The incidence of tumor development in this group is nearly zero.

An unspayed dog can go into 3 or more heats per year for their entire life. It never stops unless they are spayed.

1 in 4 unspayed dogs will get a tumor and ½ of those tumors are cancerous

Something you want to see in our News Letter??
Email any story or topic suggestions to the email below.



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