

Summer's Here... So Are A Few Safety Tips

Have you ever noticed how hot it can get inside a car on a summer day — far hotter than it is outside? That's because a car acts like a greenhouse, trapping the sun's heat.

A study by the Animal Protection Institute showed that even moderately warm temperatures outside can quickly lead to deadly temperatures inside a closed car.

The study compared an outside temperature of a shaded area with the inside of an automobile in three states: fully closed, with four windows cracked, and with two windows cracked. Inside temperatures were measured with an indoor/outdoor thermometer and an oven thermometer (both readings are given). All temperatures use Fahrenheit scale.

Day 1

Outside Temperature		Inside Closed Automobile	
		Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer	Oven Thermometer
9:00 am	82	109	----
9:30 am	87	115	----
10:00 am	91	115	----
10:30 am	94	114	115
11:00 am	98	114	119
11:30 am	100	117	124
12:00 pm	101	119	127
1:30 pm	112	124	130
2:30 pm	125	130+	159
4:00 pm	98	110	110

Day 2

Outside Temperature		Inside Closed Automobile	
		Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer	Oven Thermometer
9:15 am	84	98	98
10:00 am	88	103	105
10:30 am	90	108	108
11:00 am	92	109	109
12:00 pm	95	113	113
1:00 pm	101	114	115
2:00 pm	110	123	120
3:40 pm	112	129	128
4:00 pm	115	132	130

Day 3

Outside Temperature		Inside Closed Automobile	
		Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer	Oven Thermometer
8:30 am	72	72	72
9:30 am	80	95	95
12:00 pm	88	105	105
1:50 pm	99	109	109
2:30 pm	104	120	120

(both thermometers showed identical readings)

Other studies show similar results:

San Francisco State University - April 2007 fact sheet utilizing data from a Golden Gate Weather Services study

Another study reprinted from the Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society

A study from Stanford University shows that even on comparatively cool days, such as 72 degrees, a car's internal temperature will rocket to 116 degrees within 60 minutes. And keeping the windows open a crack hardly slows the rise at all.

Thunder/Firework Suggestions and Warnings

What is the value of your pet's mental health?

During bad storms, you might put your pet into a bath or utility room. Dogs prefer to be around grounded water so they usually seek out bathrooms. You can put cotton in the ears during the noisiest times but don't forget to remove the cotton later! Also, basements are best if you have one because the thunder and lightening is felt/seen less there. Keep some light on in the room to help cover the lightening flashes if there are windows you cannot cover completely.

During the fireworks for the Fourth, be sure to never leave your dog home alone unsecured. That is in a crate, in a locked room without access to windows, etc. Dogs have been known to dive thru plate glass windows when the noise scares them. Always have ID information on your pet (as required by the contract you signed with us) and protect especially well during fireworks season. This time is a real danger to many dogs. They get out of the house, leap fences they would never do otherwise, run blindly, get lost and/or killed. You cannot be too careful!

Classical music is one of the most useful tools to help pets afraid of loud noises (like the 4th of July and thunderstorms) or separation anxiety. Help your pets through these stressful times by confining them in a quiet, dimly lit – NOT dark-space, like the family room in your basement or a quiet bathroom, give them some favorite treats to eat and toys to play with, and turn on classical music at a level loud enough to mask outside sounds. Classical music and jazz (but definitely NOT talk radio, TV or adverts) have been shown to soothe stress in many species.

For owners whose pets have more serious issues, Valerian (available at Walgreen's and health food stores), and Bach's Flowers remedies ("Rescue Remedy" is the most popular) are low cost and work on many dogs, along with the radio treatment. Check with a holistic vet for dosage if you aren't sure. Most dogs take the adult or kid's strength, based on weight. Veterinarians often prescribe Benadryl or Clomicalm for more severe noise or separation anxiety issues – they need to prescribe the exact dose based on the weight of the dog.

Lawn Edging – The Silent Danger

During our home visits with perspective adopters, one of the things we look at in the yard is if there is lawn edging present. If it is present in the yard, is it pet-safe? How do you know? There are a couple types that are safe and one that is particularly unsafe. The pet-safe varieties are made of a composite or hard plastic and are usually colored brown or green to blend in with the landscaping and are usually fairly wide and rounded on the top edge. But there is a metal type that is fairly safe for your pets. It is the kind that is 'folded' on top which provides a rounded edge on the exposed top surface. The main thing that you have to watch for, even with the safer metal ones, is that they do not develop burrs. These can cause injury to your dog's foot if stepped on. The unsafe ones are those made of metal that do not have a rounded edge on top. These kinds can slice their feet open if they hit them while running, standing or even as they are lying down. Below are some close up images of the different types of edging.



This is a composite material that has a wide, rounded top edge that is pet-safe because there are no hard, sharp edges to cut your dog's feet.



This photo shows two types of metal edging. The single edge type is not safe because it has a straight, sharp top edge that can cut your dog's feet. The double folded type is pet-safe because it removes the sharp edge.

From Beth White

President, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc.

Hi friends:

As I searched the internet today I realized that not enough people are using www.goodsearch.com, a Yahoo search engine to search the internet. We have the potential to earn a great amount of money through this easy program. It is the simplest and easiest way for you to help Dalmatian Rescue raise funds to continue our work.

If you type in www.goodsearch.com (rather than using www.Google.com, for example) in a search window, then you'll see a bar below the topic window to be searched where you designate the charity to donate to. If you will type in Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado and then hit VERIFY, wait a few seconds till it confirms, then each time you search using www.goodsearch.com we will automatically receive a penny. No, not much each time, but, just like a jug of pennies that grows as you toss those little coins in, and surprises you with the big total when you count it out!, your searches will benefit the Dalmatian Rescue in a big way.

If you purchase from any of the companies listed on this site as well, up to 30% is donated back to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, if you have verified on the search page that your choice of charities is Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. You can purchase from such companies as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, eBay, Lands End, Overstock.com, PetSmart, Target, Staples, Wal-Mart and many more and help us still. You can also download a Goodshop toolbar that makes it easy to access a search window and the shopping sites as well.

To see how much we have earned, you can also click on the Amount Earned button. We have now raised about \$158 since inception, but if we could get more people used to using www.goodseach.com, we will be able to raise MUCH MORE for the Dalmatians. Thanks for searching and shopping thru www.goodsearch.com for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!! It all adds up!!!

Health is an important issue for all of us. I personally have been subscribing online to www.mercola.com and three times a week I receive information on how to stay or get healthy from a holistic medical doctor. Now, this site has added valuable information from a holistic veterinarian, Dr. Karen Becker. If not for your own health, you might subscribe for your dog's health! Subscription is free. Just open the site and on the first page is an invitation to subscribe. Just do it!

Beth

When it's Really Hot

Heat Stroke is a life-threatening medical condition. The pet's cooling system, which is controlled by the brain, stops working and the internal body temperature rises to the point where brain damage or damage to other internal organs may occur. Pets' normal temperatures range from 101.5° to 102° F; an animal with heat stroke can have temperatures from 104° to 110° F.

Heat stroke affects animals in different ways. Elderly, very young or ill animals have a harder time regulating their body temperatures. Snub nose dogs can not pant effectively and therefore have a hard time staying cool. Overweight dogs are more prone to overheating because of the extra layers of fat that act to insulate and trap the heat. Overweight dogs may also have breathing difficulties; the fat restricts them from panting.

No animal should be left outside unsupervised on long, hot days, even if there is shade available. Limiting the time outside during the hottest hours of the day is an important step in the prevention of heat stroke. Pets can become ill very quickly if they overheat. As an added safety measure, a bandana can be soaked in cool water and then placed in the refrigerator before putting it around a dog's neck. Cooling beds and fans are also helpful.

It is dangerous to leave a pet in a car even if it is "just for a minute." On mild days in the spring and fall, temperatures in cars can reach 120° F or higher; imagine how hot it can be when the outside temperature is 100° F. On those hot days, it is best to keep your pet at home where it is nice, cool and safe.

Outside exercise and play time are important parts of keeping pets healthy. Remember you can change clothes to cooler items, but your pet is still wearing a "fur coat" and releases most of its body heat only through the pads of its feet and by panting. Dogs do not have the ability to sweat so it is more difficult for them to cool down. It is advisable during the hot months to keep walks to a gentle pace, taking advantage of the early morning and late evening cooler hours. If you must walk when it is hot outside, remember that you have shoes on to protect your feet from the heat of the street or sidewalk. Keep your pet on the grass to ensure its feet do not get burned. Give your pet plenty of water during walks. Without water from you, your dog may drink from puddles in the road - puddles that could contain antifreeze, which can be deadly to pets.

Dogs that live outside should have adequate shelter to protect them from the sun and heat. Outside kennels need to be well ventilated and situated in shaded areas. Make sure outside dogs have plenty of clean, cool fresh water.

If you notice things like excessive panting and profuse salivation, disorientation, staring or an anxious expression, weakness, rapid heartbeat, excessive thirst, fever, dizziness, vomiting, deep red or purple tongue, and possibly unconsciousness, these are clinical signs of heat stroke. Heat stroke can be fatal if left untreated. At the first sign of trouble, call your veterinarian. Move your pet into a shaded or air conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest to gradually lower your pet's temperature. Immersion in a cool (NOT COLD) water bath may help, too.

When transporting your pet to the veterinarian's office, allow small amounts of cool water or let your pet lick an ice cube. Brain and organ damage can occur within just 15 minutes. Under your veterinarian's care, treatments for heat stroke may vary but will include further cooling techniques such as administering IV fluids to counteract shock and medications to prevent brain damage.

Ask The Trainer

Choosing A New Dog

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Question: We have had our interview with (our rescue group) and are visiting our first potential adoptee tonight. Is there any advice you can give us as to how to choose a dog wisely?

The Trainer Answers: It's very wise of you to ask some questions first! While not intended to be a complete list, following are some recommendations to get you started:

1. Make a WRITTEN list of the MUST-HAVE criteria for your family. Does the dog need to be under a certain weight, friendly with strangers, cat-safe and get along with your current dog?
2. Make another list of criteria for your IDEAL dog. Would you prefer a white, female dog?
3. Look at foster profiles, question foster families, and spend time getting to know the dog.
4. The foster families can only tell you what they have experienced with the dog in their particular situation. Realize that dogs can behave differently in different environments and situations. In your home, you might see some very different behaviors.
5. Look for red flags. Has this dog growled at a person and in what situation? Did this dog run and hide when you showed up? Don't assume he will 'grow out of' something if it's on your must have list. He might or he might not. Red flags for you will depend on your criteria in 1 & 2.
6. Never adopt a dog on the first visit! This causes people to overlook red flags. I always recommend you go home, sleep on it and take time to discuss with the entire family.
7. Remember that you are a stranger. If you want to know how the dog will be with you, look at the relationship with his current family, but remember all situations are different.
8. If you already have a resident dog, allow them to meet and see how they interact.
9. If you will have a hard time being objective, consider bringing someone else along to help you.

(This "Ask The Trainer" article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, owner of Love My Dog Training and a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. Love My Dog Training is located in and services the Denver Metro Area.

<http://www.lovemymydogtraining.com>.)

Poisonous Plants...

A Follow-Up

Shortly after the last issue was posted, I received an email from Larry in Longmont, Colorado, who advised me, "I'd like to add a plant/tree to your list. It is the peach tree. In the summer of 2008, our senior rescue Dal, Winston, feasted on peaches and peach pits that had dropped to the ground. Not long after his grazing, Winston became deathly ill. We discovered that he was suffering from arsenic poisoning from consuming the peach pits. Only the heads-up work of our vet saved him." So it should be needless to say that we all need to watch what our pets are ingesting to be able to help the vet if something should go wrong.

We also received this warning about the Sago Palm tree from Burnt Hills Veterinary Hospital in Burnt Hills NY. Recently the home improvement stores have stocked their shelves with a plant called the "Sago Palm". This is a decorative houseplant that you may be tempted to purchase. If your pets ingest ANY part of this plant it will cause liver failure. Even with aggressive veterinary treatment 70% of these pets will die. We implore you to keep your household free of this plant. We are devastated when we are unable to help your pets.

Go to our website and get a look at this plant. <http://www.burnthillsvethosp.com/>

*****Be A Pal, Save A Dal*****

PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closet to where you now live, so they can save lives like they saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog who can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and get ready for a new home. PLEASE help rescues and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained and ready to love. PLEASE think about this... Dalmatians are everywhere and are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to LIVE until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for rescue and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help your local rescue save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help your local rescue and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

Bits & Pieces

Coyote Rollers... A Fencing Innovation?

More and more we find that wildlife is infringing on "our" (well, it was theirs once) space and posing dangers to our pets, and in some cases in the Denver area to children as well. I recently learned about the Coyote Rollers which really make sense. If you install these on your fence, your dog won't get out and other critters won't get in. It prevents a foothold on the top of the fence. Even though it is suggested the fence height be 6 ft., it would work for shorter fences too I'm sure.

Several dogs recently have been pulled from shelters because they were escaping the yard and had their owner only known. What a simple solution!! Wish I had thought of it! Check this out!

<http://www.coyoteroller.com/home>

-- Beth White

Some Interesting Websites

<http://www.dogchannel.com>

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2009/05/04/the-frequently-missing-ingredient-in-your-pet-s-diet-that-could-devastate-their-health.aspx>

Heal That Skin!

After years of trial and error to find some kind of ointment that the dogs will not lick off I accidentally found one and just had to share. Having 5 dogs on occasion, one will get a nip or scratch and in the past I've used tea tree oil, Neosporin and numerous other "ouchie" medicines. I was shopping at Wal-Mart and noticed an off brand for Neosporin spray called "On The Go" made by Derma Cure which contains benzokonium chloride and Proximine HCl. One of my dogs began a small lick spot and I grabbed this and sprayed the spot. The dog of course decided to lick it and after one small lick made a face like a baby with a sour pickle and didn't lick it again. The spot cleared in 2 days. I'm going to stock up on this little spray. The other good point is Neosporin is about \$6.00 and this off brand is about \$3.00.

Judy Pogue, Dalaway Dalmatians

www.dalawaydalmatians.com

<http://dalawaydals.blogspot.com/>

Also, if you have an area that needs to remain soft so it can re-grow hair, try Vaseline, but put it on the area and then take the dog for a walk. While the dog is interested in the walk the Vaseline invades the skin and is thoroughly absorbed by the time the dog is home. No licking away what you put on.

To All Non-Pet Owners Who Visit and Like to Complain About My Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. That's why they call it "fur"niture.
3. We like our pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, they are an animal. To us, he/she is an adopted son/daughter, who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.

Remember: Dogs and cats are better than kids because they:

1. Eat less.
 2. Don't ask for money all the time.
 3. Are easier to train.
 4. Normally come when called.
 5. Never ask to drive the car.
 6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends.
 7. Don't smoke or drink.
 8. Don't have to buy the latest fashions.
 9. Don't want to wear your clothes.
 10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and ...
 11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children. (Or you can have them "fixed" at 6 months and no one calls you a bad parent.)
-

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatian

Clover1



1 Year Old, Black Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Oh boy! I'm brand new around here, but they said I get to be a featured Dalmatian this month!! Okay, so I am not a purebred Dalmatian, but my foster dad says I act like one. He says that I am a real loveable little girl so who am I to argue? I don't know if you can really see it too well in the photo that 'Dad' picked for this article, but I am a little bit skinny... but it's not my fault. I had puppies and they ate a LOT! The folks here at Dalmatian Rescue keep talking about getting me 'fixed' soon, but I remind them that I am not broken! I guess this getting fixed thing means that I won't have any more babies, which is fine with me because they take a lot out of a gal.

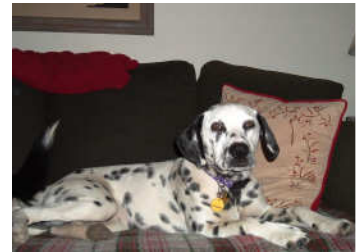
I like to lay on dad's couch when he's busy with work stuff (I don't like that stuff because it means he can't play with me). I romp and play in the yard – since we aren't allowed to roughhouse inside – with my buddy, Lisa. Man can she play! I like it here, but I really want a home and family to call my own. So if you like the way I look and want someone that is easy to take care of, loves to cuddle, and is very quiet... I'm your girl!!

Happy Beginning Story

Grace

(aka Kitty)

Grace (about 11 months) came to our home just a few short weeks ago from a pretty unknown situation that ended with her being found in a shelter in Kansas and rescued by Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado and fostered by a good soul, Janice. Already it feels like Grace has been part of our family forever. We cannot imagine her not being here with us. In fact, as I'm writing this story, she is curled at my feet with a new dog toy and her treasured sister and best playmate, Kelsey (an 11 month old rescued Border collie mix), snuggled up against her. Now, not all our time together is quite so peaceful... but, it is always so loving. Both of these girls are high energy and usually eager to play and romp like sillies until they are exhausted, which explains the quiet right now.



At first, we were a little worried about how Kelsey would take to sharing a home with another dog. We adopted her when she was just 10 weeks old. While she's been used to sharing her two people with a couple of older cats, she's also used to being the center of attention. We have pretty much always been a two dog family... but with a number of pet losses in the last two years we've been a little tentative about re-growing our family. We had a beautiful and loving Dalmatian, Noelle, as part of our earlier family. When she passed away at age 13 our hearts were broken... but because she was such a gift, our love for the breed remained strong. We kept our eyes on the Dal Rescue website and even went and met a couple awaiting adoption. But, our adored, older black lab (Jesse) just could not accept another dog in the place of her best friend. Very sadly, Jesse also passed last summer. That brings us closer to now. In September, Kelsey joined our home and has brought us much joy. She is an exceedingly social puppy and we made a point of getting her play time and overnight visits with other doggie friends... hoping she might want another friend/sister to join her in our home. It worked! She took right to Grace and they have been the fastest of friends since Grace moved in.

When we saw Grace on the website our hearts just danced... without having met her we just had an intuitive sense that she would be the right fit. But, we got very worried it might not come to pass without the kindness and sensitivity of both Beth and Janice. Jane broke both arms on the day Grace was to be introduced to us. As a result, the meeting and transition had to be postponed for a number of days. Thank you, thank you, thank you - for waiting the extra time it took to get our lives in order so Grace could still join our home. When we went to meet Grace, who was described as playful and a little shy, we were a little bowled over with her high energy behavior and the "Hi, this is me and I'm going with you right now" attitude she exuded. She literally raced around us and the room seeming to know something special was up. We brought her home that afternoon and introduced Grace to Kelsey in the comfort of a fairly large backyard.

Oh My! Grace was so excited about the space that she literally seemed to be flying through the air in a figure eight pattern that circled the entire yard. I'm not sure her feet even touched the ground... and she was soooo fast. I thought maybe we picked up a greyhound by mistake. The two of us, and Kelsey, stood and watched stunned – our mouths wide open in awe. However, it didn't take Kelsey long to join in the great fun. Clearly, Grace needed to celebrate her freedom from a shelter and limited space. We've all been celebrating ever since. Grace fit right in from the moment she got here. She is very smart and learned the basic house rules really quickly. Still, she and Kelsey will both be attending obedience school together soon. Grace has also shared her wonderful personality willingly. She is a cuddle but and bed hog. She loves toys, playing and all of us (yep, she is even good with the cats). She is just beautiful and perfect. And, we love her enormously. Thanks for bringing her to us!

-- Les and Jane

Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!

NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25th of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Send submissions to the Editor at: spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!
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