



While summer provides many opportunities to get outside with your pets, there are also a few things to watch out for:

Heatstroke

Signs of heatstroke in dogs and cats include excessive panting, salivation, distressed behaviour and collapse. Older or overweight pets, or those with conditions such as heart disease, laryngeal paralysis or asthma are more at risk. If you think your pet has heatstroke you can:

- Provide cool water or add ice cubes to their water bowl
- Use a fan to provide cool air
- Keep them in the shade
- Pour cool (but not freezing!) water over them
- Contact your vet if symptoms are severe or don't resolve quickly



Avoid heatstroke by exercising your dog during the cooler parts of the day (e.g. first thing in the morning or late evening) and always have water available to drink.



And please, never leave your pet in a car during warm weather;

even with the windows down, the temperature inside the car will quickly exceed that outside – **it's distressing for the pet and potentially fatal.**

Insect bites and stings

Most bites or stings will cause a small red swelling in the skin but occasionally they can result in a swelling of the face and neck leading to excessive itching or discomfort. Very rarely your pet can have an allergic reaction and show symptoms such as difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat or distress. Contact your vet immediately if you are concerned.

BBQs

As tempting as it is to share titbits from your BBQ it can create problems for any pet. Unfamiliar or fatty foods can cause an upset stomach and hot food can cause scalding of the mouth and throat. Ensure your pet doesn't have access to any alcohol or articles that won't pass easily through the gut such as corn cobs, cooked bones (these can shatter easily) or kebab sticks. If your pet is sitting in the sun they may need protection with a pet-safe sunscreen. White animals or those with exposed pink skin are most at risk.

Fly Strike



Don't forget your rabbits, guinea pigs and other small pets this summer. Fly strike is caused when flies lay eggs on your pet and the hatching maggots eat the skin and underlying tissues. It is a very painful condition that can develop in just a few hours and can cause death if not treated urgently.

Contact your vet as soon as you notice your pet has fly strike. But to help prevent it you can:

- Check your pet's bottom and above the tail at least twice daily
- Make sure they are clean and dry
- Check for and remove dirty bedding
- Apply a product to help stop flies laying eggs
- Check there is nothing preventing your pet from grooming such as obesity, arthritis or dental disease



Please contact us for any further advice as we look forward to another glorious summer.