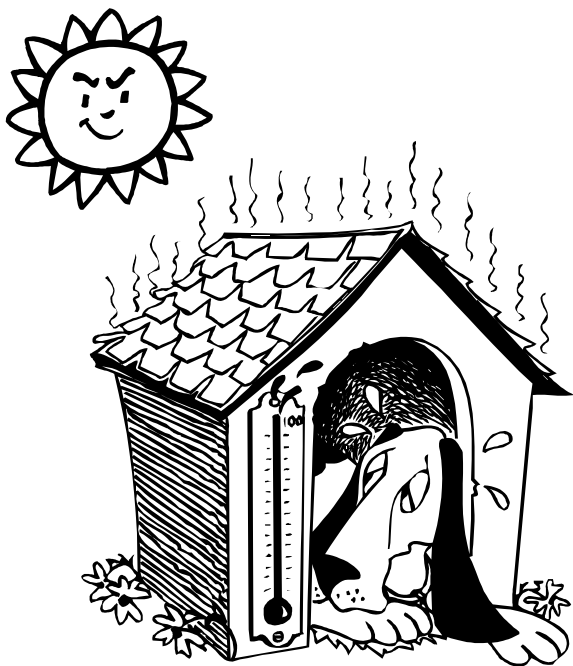


HUMANE SOCIETY
OF ST. JOSEPH
& BUCHANAN COUNTY

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

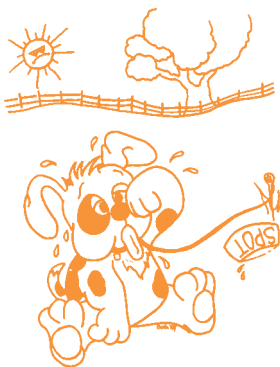


P.O. Box 6036
St. Joseph, MO 64506
Phone/Fax 816-232-6955

www.humanestjoseph.org

OUTDOOR SAFETY

- ❧ If your pet is left outside on warm days, ensure he has access to plenty of cool drinking water.
- ❧ Provide your outside pet with lots of shade other than a tree. As the day goes by, a tree does not always provide shade.
- ❧ Pets need exercise even when it is hot, but extra care needs to be taken. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Remember asphalt and concrete get very hot and can burn your pet's paws.
- ❧ Pets can get sunburned too, your pet may require sunscreen on his or her nose and ear tips. Pets with light-colored noses or fur are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer.
- ❧ Check your pet regularly for 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. Never use products designed for dogs on your cat, or vice versa.
- ❧ 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.
- ❧ When away from home, always carry water with you on hot days and give your pet small amounts frequently.



CAR SAFETY

- 🐾 Did you know a pet or child left in a car on a warm day could suffer irreparable brain damage and even die of heatstroke in just minutes? On a 78-degree day, a car parked in the sun can reach 160 degrees in minutes. Even opening windows or parking in the shade will not keep a pet or child from serious injury.
- 🐾 Don't take a chance – never leave your pet or child in an unattended car.
- 🐾 If you see a pet in danger, try to locate the animal's guardian by having them paged inside the store or call local animal control or the police. They can unlock the car and get the pet out.
- 🐾 Don't carry a dog unrestrained in a pickup truck bed. Besides being extremely dangerous (many dogs jump or fall out of truck beds), the hot metal can burn dogs' paws.

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM HEATSTROKE

- 🐾 Learn the signs of heatstroke: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, lack of coordination, dark tongue & gums, vomiting, fever, lack of appetite and restlessness.
- 🐾 Get your pet under shade or in air conditioning right away. Call your veterinarian immediately, Lower the animal's body temperature gradually by providing cool water to drink or ice cubes to lick. Apply cool water or towels all over her body to lower her temperature.
- 🐾 The best treatment for heatstroke is, of course, prevention. Follow the outdoor safety tips and don't take your pets in the car on warm days.

TRAVELING WITH PETS

- 🐾 When planning a vacation or business trip the decision to take your pet along or leave him behind is an important one for both you and your companion.
- 🐾 Keep in mind that some animals are not suited for travel because of temperament, illness, or physical impairment. If you have any doubts, talk to your veterinarian.
- 🐾 If you decide it is best for your pet to accompany you, you will need to prepare for the journey. You will need to have all of the supplies necessary to keep your pet comfortable while he's away from home, and you'll need to familiarize yourself with any pet-related restrictions or requirements imposed by airlines, destination countries or states, hotels, etc.



- 🐾 A pet should wear ID tags at all times, but especially when traveling, he or she should also wear ID tags with a home address and phone number and one with a destination address and phone number.
- 🐾 If you determine that your pet should not travel, consider the alternative: Have a responsible friend or relative look after your pet or board your animal at a kennel.

- 🐾 See if the friend or relative can stay in your home with the pet while you are gone. Some pets need the comfort of familiar surroundings during your absence. If not, ask if that person can take your animal into his or her home. Be sure that your pet is comfortable with the temporary caretaker, not to mention any pets that person has.
- 🐾 If you choose to board your pet, get references and inspect the kennel. Take some of your pet's toys or bedding to the kennel so he or she will have something familiar.
- 🐾 Whatever option you choose, your pet should be up-to-date on all vaccinations and in sound health. Provide the caretaker with the telephone number where you can be reached, the name and telephone number of your veterinarian, and your pet's medical, dietary and daily needs.

THE FOURTH OF JULY

- 🐾 July 5th is the busiest day of the year at animal shelters. Dogs are found miles from their homes, confused, disoriented and exhausted. People call hoping to locate a missing dog that, terrified, crashed through a window, jumped a fence or broke its leash or chain.
- 🐾 If fireworks upset your pet, make sure someone stays with him.
- 🐾 Keep your pet inside, safe from loud noises.
- 🐾 If you wish to tranquilize your pet, consult with your veterinarian or call an animal behaviorist to work with your pet, but call well in advance of Independence Day.

DOG BITE PREVENTION

- 🐾 Dogs bite more than 4 million people in the U.S. each year and between 500,000 to 1 million of the victims require medical treatment. Children make up more than 60 percent of all dog bite victims.
- 🐾 Dog owners are responsible for carefully considering their selection of a breed, training and socialization of the dog. Keep your dog current on his vaccinations. A neutered or spayed dog is less likely to bite. When out in public keep your dog on a leash and require that children and others request permission before petting your dog.
- 🐾 Share the following tips with your family on how to avoid dog bites or attacks:

Never leave a baby or child alone with a dog in his or her own home or a friend's home.

Be aware that about 80 percent of bites occur in the victim's home or a friend's home.

Children must be taught not to approach strange dogs.

Dogs do not like to be teased, stay away from dogs that are chained or in fenced yards.

Dogs are sometimes possessive; do not grab things like bones or pet toys.

Don't run past a dog, they naturally love to chase and catch things.

Do not run and scream around dogs, quick movements and squeals can frighten the dog.

If a dog approaches don't run or scream. Stay still until you can move away carefully.

If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with a fist over each ear, remain still.

Never disturb a dog that is caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.

Avoid eye contact, staring threatens dogs.

Ask before petting anyone's dog.