

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPPS Offers Summer Safety Tips for Pets

Pet Parents Must Properly Care for Furry Friends to Ensure Safety under the Summer Sun

MT. LAUREL, NJ – June 4, 2013 – The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is encouraging pet parents to prepare their furry loved ones for the warmer weather and prevent hyperthermia.

As temperatures heat up, weather conditions outside become potentially dangerous for pets; if animals have no relief from the sun, they may overheat or experience heat exhaustion. NAPPS urges pet parents to be familiar with the signs of an overheated pet: heavy panting, dark red gums, difficulty breathing, excessive drooling, dilated pupils, confusion, and anxiety. If your pet shows signs of overheating, seek immediate medical attention from your veterinarian.

“It’s tempting to stay outside for many hours at a time during the warm summer months, but be sure that both you and your pet have a cool, shaded place for relaxing and plenty of fresh water to help keep you hydrated,” said Sherry L. Suhosky, president of NAPPS.

NAPPS urges pet parents to consider these tips to help keep pets safe and cool under the summer’s sun:

- Make sure your pet has access to fresh, clean water.
- Apply sunscreen made specifically for pets to light skinned and light furred dogs. Although their fur helps provide protection, areas around their mouth, ears and belly remain susceptible to sunburn.
- Never leave your animal alone in a parked car, even if it’s just for a few minutes. Cars heat up quickly and can cause your pet to overheat, resulting in death.
- Don’t rely on a dog house to shield your pup from the sun. A dog house can be just as dangerous as a hot car. Make sure dog houses are in the shade and have proper ventilation.
- Think twice before shaving Fido’s coat. Some breeds are not meant to be shaved, so check with your vet or groomer before clipping your pooch.
- If Fido tags along to a backyard barbecue, be sure to keep your pup away from alcoholic drinks and human foods that are poisonous to animals.
- During extreme heat, avoid walking your pet on concrete or asphalt. The hot ground can burn the sensitive paw pads of your animal.
- Hire a professional pet sitter to walk your pup during the early mornings or cool evenings. The best time to exercise your dog is before sunrise or after sunset.
- Beware of insect bites: your pet might have an allergic reaction to a sting or bite and will need to have the wound properly treated to maintain good health.
- Make an appointment with the vet. Make sure all vaccinations are up to date and find the best flea and tick prevention medications.

“As pet parents and professional pet sitters, it is our job to provide animals with a safe environment,” added Suhosky.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as “the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS’ free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS’ nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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