

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPPS Cautions Pet Parents About the Dangers of Hot Weather

*The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters
provides summer survival tips for pets*

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J., May 20, 2011 – The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) wants to provide pet parents with proper care guidelines for pets during those hot summer days. The weather can become potentially dangerous to pets and NAPPS, a non-profit organization committed to promoting the welfare of animals, wants to help you avert the dangers by abiding by the following guidelines.

John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters, explained, “Just as the heat and sun can affect humans, our pets are at the same risk. As pet parents and sitters, we must provide our animals with the proper care to ensure their health and safety during the scorching days of summer. It’s important to familiarize yourself with the warning signs and know how to treat heat-related problems effectively.

Proper administration of the following tips will help your pet stay safe – and have fun – in the sun.

- Apply sunscreen to light skinned and light furred dogs. Although their fur helps protect them, areas around their mouth and ears can still get sun burnt, resulting in peeling skin and even skin cancer.
- Always provide your pet with fresh, clean water during those hot summer days. Pets must stay hydrated, just as humans do.
- If you’re taking your pet somewhere other than your own backyard, make sure to use a leash. Without a leash, your pet could wander, potentially eating or drinking something harmful.
- Make sure your pet has plenty of shade to relax if it becomes too hot.
- Know when playtime is over. Don’t keep your pets outside for extended periods of time or they could suffer from exhaustion. Know the warning signs of overheating in pets, including: heavy panting, difficulty breathing, drooling, weakness, etc.
- 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.
- Give your pet a trim. Cutting your pets thick hair can help prevent it from overheating during hot, summer months. The key is to trim, not shave, leaving enough hair to protect the pet’s skin from the sun’s harmful rays.

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- During extreme heat, avoid walking your pet on concrete or asphalt. The hot ground can burn the sensitive paw pads of your animal. If you can, walk your pet in early mornings or evenings.
- 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.

NAPPS equips pet parents with the tools to face everyday pet emergencies through its [pet parent resource page](#) on its website.

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, nationwide referral service, and quarterly teleconferences aimed to educate the pet owning public. 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](#) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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