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Rincon Vista Veterinary Center - Tucson, AZ

by Dr. Gary Bird

Hot Time in the City

Tucson summers can be brutal...for your family and your pets! Similar to precautions you take to ensure your family doesn't suffer through the hot summer months of Arizona, I've got some quick, practical tips to making sure you are adequately prepared to handle the hot times.

Remember, dogs & cats suffer from the same problems humans do, such as overheating, dehydration, and even sunburn. By taking some simple precautions, you can celebrate the season and keep your pets healthy and happy.

- * Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle. Hyperthermia can be fatal quickly. Even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace in no time. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day.
- * Carry a gallon thermos filled with cold, fresh water when traveling with your pet.
- * The right time for playtime is in the cool of the early morning or evening, but never after a meal or when the weather is hot & humid.
- * Fireworks are no fun for pets, so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day displays. Instead, keep them safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered area at home.
- * Street smarts: When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog stand on hot asphalt. Its body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.
- * Be especially sensitive to old and overweight pets in hot weather. Keep pets with heart or lung diseases indoors in air conditioning as much as possible. This also applies to snub-nosed dogs, such as bulldogs, Pekinese, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos, & shih tzus.
- * Provide fresh water and plenty of shade for pets kept outdoors. A properly constructed doghouse serves best. Bring your pet inside during the heat of the day to rest in a cool part of the house.
- * Summers the time when gardens, lawns, and trees are sprayed with insecticides, so avoid walking your dog in suspect areas. These chemicals can cause harm, even death. If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, call your veterinarian immediately.
- * Good grooming can stave off summer skin problems, especially for dogs with heavy coats. Shaving the hair to a 1-inch length never down to the skin, please, which robs Rover of protection from the sun will prevent overheating. Frequent brushing helps keep cats tangle-free.

The simple fact is that summers in Arizona can be dangerous if you aren't careful. Enjoy the longer days with health and happiness, but make sure your use precaution too. Treat the temperatures with seriousness and understand the trouble spots.



Rincon Vista Veterinary Center is owned and operated by Dr. Gary Bird. We are focused on providing comfortable, affordable service that will let you know we care about your littlest family members! This email marketing series is developed to share important, interesting and empowering information that allow you and your family to make the best decisions for your pets. Please let us know if you have any questions by calling us or by going online to RinconVista.info. We respect and value your privacy. If you don't wish to receive our email newsletter anymore simply click on the subscription button below. Or call us at 520-298-3319. We will never sell, give or share your information to third parties.