



FAMILY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

The Best Care at Our House or Yours

2010 August

Oh the dog days of summer ...

So we survived the grueling heat of the Missouri Summer ... just barely! We don't think there's enough water or popsicles to cool us off. As for the dogs and cats who prefer the outdoors (we think they're crazy), there are a few things to consider before you let them through that door ...

The heat isn't over yet! St. Louis has a few more hot and humid days left in her. Extensive periods of time outside are exhausting for us and our animals, and can be just as dangerous, too. We've seen temps in the triple digits lately and that's enough to harm an animal who has been exposed to sun and heat for long periods of time.

WE ARE MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH HEAT EXHAUSTION AND EXPOSURE. THE LACK OF SHADE OR WATER LEADS TO OVERHEATING, DEHYDRATION AND ORGAN FAILURE IN SEVERE CASES, AND THAT IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT NO ANIMAL SHOULD EVER ENDURE.

Watch those paws when taking walks on asphalt, that street is HOT!!! After each walk, check for any signs of blistering or cracking of the paw pads. Cats and dogs especially cannot tolerate rising temperatures like we can. Prolonged exposure can take permanent or deadly tolls on your pets, heat exhaustion is VERY real.

Constant panting, extreme lethargy, loss of appetite, and unconsciousness are all signs of heat exposure. So if you let your furry ones outdoors for any amount of time, please be sure to provide shade and water!!!!!!

Now that the kids are going back to school, everyone's jam packed schedules are tighter and more complex than ever. We have had our escapes this summer (thank goodness) and it's back to the real world again. We'd like to thank **Dr. Joy Lee, DVM** for covering us while we were out of the office. She's a wonderful doctor and our clients—and patients :)—were very pleased with her during their visits! We look forward to having her back in the future. If you are still planning for your vacation, and you have to board your furry kids, let us know if we need to update anything. Our schedules are packing up quickly, so if Fido needs his vaccines, schedule your appointments now!

This is also the time of year when the mosquitoes dwell down a bit. Their populations may be decreasing, but they will still find a way to outlast the summer and take their heartworms through the winter. It is especially important to keep your dogs on heartworm preventative throughout the year because heartworm-infected mosquitoes will silently strike with devastating blows! Use Heartgard Plus, Revolution, or Interceptor every month! Stop by our office or check out our online pharmacy to see what heartworm preventative is right for your pet.

Watch for our upcoming months' newsletters ... soon we'll be celebrating Dental Month in October!!!



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