



PAW TALES



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Pets in Hot Cars

Submitted By Amy Starkey

The dangers:

- It takes only minutes for a pet left in a vehicle on a warm day to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation.



- On a 78 degree day, temperatures in a car parked in the shade can exceed 90 degrees -- and hit a scorching 160 degrees if parked in the sun! And remember animals are wearing fur coats!
- Many experts recommend not leaving pets or children in parked cars even for short periods if the temperature is in the 60s or higher.
- Rolling down a window or parking in the shade doesn't guarantee protection.
- Animals are not able to sweat like humans do. Dogs cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paws. If they have only overheated air to breathe, animals can collapse, suffer brain damage and possibly die of heatstroke. Just 15 minutes can be enough for an animal's body temperature to climb from a normal 102.5 to deadly levels that will damage the nervous and cardiovascular systems, often leaving the animal comatose, dehydrated and at risk of permanent impairment or death.
- What about leaving the dog in the car with the air-conditioning running? Many people do this, but tragedy can strike -- and it has. For example, in 2003, a police dog in Texas died after the air-conditioning in the patrol car shut down and began blowing hot air. The air system's compressor kicked off because the engine got too hot. Many cars, including modern models with computerized functions, are prone to the same problem. In August 2004, a North Carolina couple lost two of their beloved dogs, and nearly lost their third dog, as result of a similar failure. They had left bowls of water and ice in the car, and the air-conditioning on, during their shopping trip of less than 30 minutes.

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

WHAT'S NEW!!!

In addition to the PayPal secure link on Facebook, donations may now be made via a secure PayPal link on the HPAN blog site. Unlike the link on Facebook, the blog link does not charge usage fees to HPAN. The blog is located at <http://helpingpaws37830.wordpress.com/>.

Precautions:

- Leave your dog at home on warm days.

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REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PET CURRENT ON HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE!

www.facebook.com/HelpingPawsAnimalNetwork

Traveling With Your Dogs

By Karin Jessen

Traveling with your best furry friend(s) can be a great experience, not only for you, but for your dog as well. Not only does this allow a special “reconnection” time with your 4 legged family, it also allows your dog to get away from the same routine and enjoy time with family without watching everyone leave for work and school. And they may even get to have some fun time on the beach or in the lake or hiking through the mountains, wherever your final destination may take you.

Before you travel with your dog, there is lots of planning that needs to happen. You need to consider the time of year, the length of the trip, how your dog travels in the car, what you will do when you have to stop to eat, sleep, and get to your final destination. Do you have hotel reservations and does the hotel allow dogs? Is there a limit on the number of dogs, the weight of the dogs, and can the dogs be left in the room unattended? Is there a pet deposit and is one required for each pet? What about emergency vet care at your final destination...or even on the road to your final destination? Do you have current vet records for your dog, rabies tags, collar, microchip information? What about dog food...does your dog require a special diet, will your final destination have the right brand of dog food? If you are in an accident and your dog gets separated from you, will someone be able to get in touch with you if they find your dog? What if the accident results in a fatality...would the emergency crew know who to call so your dog doesn't end up in a shelter? Wow...that is a lot to think about before heading out!



Before leaving, be sure to:

1. Have each dog wear a dog collar with their name, your name, address, and phone numbers. This should include your cell phone number...after all, if you are on vacation and you get separated from your dog, you will not be able to be reached at home! We keep harnesses on our dogs as a safety precaution, if they slip out of their collars...something I know they won't do, but they wear their harnesses every time we leave the rented house or hotel room.
2. The rabies tag should be attached to the dog's collar. This allows someone to reach your vet, who may be able to provide the finder of your dog with additional information to help the dog and owner be reunited, should the unthinkable happen.
3. All vaccinations should be current and you should have the medical records with you.
4. Make sure you plan for the dogs medications, if applicable.
5. Take with you a water bottle, dog food, bowls, treats, a few toys, dog bed or blanket.
6. Always leash your dog at rest stops and any time when out and about.
7. Always carry a first aid kit. It will come in handy if you or your dog becomes injured.
8. Your dog should wear a seat belt or ride in a crate. This is the safest way for your dog(s) to travel.
9. You should have a list of veterinary hospitals and emergency care clinics along your travel route.

My husband and I have taken our three big dogs on three different 7-10 day trips. Each trip was successful, but a lot of planning took place months before we headed out. Our final destination was a beach somewhere. Our first trip in 2001 was to Corpus Christi, TX. It took two days of driving time each way, plus a hotel once we got there. The nice thing about this trip was that our son and daughter were with us, so the humans outnumbered the dogs! We did not have to worry about pet deposits, or leaving the dogs alone in the hotel when we went out for a quick trip the store or to a restaurant. Our second beach trip was to Dauphin Island, AL in 2003. We were very fortunate that the beach house we rented was owned by a couple with four goldens who had no problem with our two goldens and German shepherd. The great thing about this house is that it had a huge, gated deck which allowed the dogs to be out on the deck enjoying the weather! Our third trip was to VA Beach in Nov. 2009. Our dogs were all about 10 years old at this time and they were troopers! Each trip had its challenges but in the end, the preplanning was the key to success. One thing we found very helpful was pre-measuring the individual meals for each dog. Each of our three dogs is on a different diet and different portions of food. So each meal was measured and put in a baggie. At feeding time, all we had to do was open the baggie and put it in the dog bowls.

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Developmental Stages of a Dog's Life

Submitted By Patti Mynatt

[Petfinder editor's note: This chart offers a loose guide to a dog's developmental life stages. However, each breed and individual is different and may mature slightly differently. In general, larger dogs may reach the senior or geriatric stage around age 7, while smaller dogs may be considered adults until an older age.]

	JUVENILE 6 WKS - 6 MOS.	ADOLESCENT 6 MOS - 18 MOS.	ADULT 18 MOS - 7 YRS.	GERIATRIC 7 YEARS +
Equipment	kennel crate, buckle collar, leash, odor neutralizer, anti-chew spray, chew toys, I.D. tag, microchip, dog license	check collar size, check leash for wear; head halter for training if necessary, new toys suitable for hard chewing and grinding, dog bed	check equipment for wear; repair or replace bedding, toys, collar, and leash, update license yearly	orthopedic dog bedding, body harness if needed, odor neutralizer for incontinence
Exercise	play games that encourage cooperation: hide & seek, find it, round robin recalls	problem prevention program: 2 hrs. aerobic exercise daily; tug of war games only if dog follows rules	maintain exercise program; can include jogging and cycling activities, agility classes	light exercise program to maintain weight; avoid overexerting on hot or cold days
Grooming	daily brushing, bi-weekly nail clipping, weekly teeth cleaning, bathe as needed	maintain grooming program, flea/tick control program, bathe as needed	maintain programs, note any skin growths or changes in pigment, bathe as needed	massage therapy, maintain grooming, report to vet growths/lumps, pigment changes
Healthcare	puppy vaccination series, rabies vaccination, stool check, deworming, early age spay/neuter	annual vaccinations, stool check, heartworm test, traditional spay/neuter heart worm preventative	annual check-up vaccinations every 1-3 years, check for periodontal disease, heartworm test and monthly preventative	report any sudden changes in diet, activity, stool to vet, heartworm test and monthly preventative
Diet	premium quality dry kibble puppy formula 2-3X/day, treats for training	6-12 months: puppy formula 2X day; 12-18 months: adult formula 1-2X/day, treats for training	watch for obesity; switch to less active formula if necessary, treats for training	senior formula diet; vet prescribed diet for kidney and other problems, treats for training
Training	supervision and consistent feedback regarding house manners, basic commands; handling exercises; socialization	training program emphasizing impulse control and leadership; agility and/or tracking skills	maintain training; guarding breeds may need additional supervision and training to prevent problem behaviors	maintain training according to dog's ability (loss of vision, hearing, stiffness/pain), more frequent opportunities to soil outdoors
Behavior	impressionable, learns quickly and easily, best time to train and begin lifelong habits	sexually mature; typical headstrong teenager; rebellious	emotionally/socially mature, behaviorally predictable, may try to dominate	reduced sensory input may result in confusion or irritability, canine cognitive dysfunction

Source: www.petfinder.com

Pets in Hot Cars *Cont. from page 1*

- On trips with your pet, bring plenty of fresh drinking water and a bowl.
- Don't let dogs ride loose in pickup truck beds. The hot metal can burn a dog's paws, the sun and flying debris can hurt the dog – even bugs can put a dog's eye out, the dog can accidentally be thrown out of the truck if the brakes are suddenly applied, and the dog can jump out if scared or upon seeing something interesting to chase. Instead, use a crate to create a safer space for the dog if you can't fit the dog inside the truck cab.
- Take the dog into the shade, an air conditioned area, or to the vet if you see signs of heat exhaustion, which include restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, dark tongue, rapid pulse, fever, vomiting, glazed eyes, dizziness, or lack of coordination. To lower body temperature gradually, give the animal water to drink, place a cold towel or ice pack on the head, neck and chest, and/or immerse the dog in cool (not cold) water. Call your veterinarian.

If you see a pet in a vehicle on a hot day, take immediate action:

- Note the car make, model, color and tag number, then go to the nearest stores and ask the managers to page the owner.
- Call the police, which usually can respond much faster than can animal control departments. The police have the capability to enter the vehicle and rescue the pet.

Borrowed from www.paw-rescue.org

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Chris Kelley at 865-250-7085 or via email at ck72@comcast.net

Traveling with Your Dog *Cont. from page 2*

Traveling by plane with your dog presents additional challenges. You will need to check with the airlines regarding the maximum size crate they allow, the length of the flight, what times of year the airlines allow the dogs to fly, and if anyone checks on the dog during flight. If you are not on the same flight as your dog, what are the arrangements that need to be made if the dog must be over nighted somewhere. In addition, who cares for the dog, who feeds the dog...who is responsible for the dog? Do you need to find (and pay) for someone to be responsible for dog to ensure all goes well and the dog is taken care of?

Although traveling with your dog is not always easy and a little more time consuming, I would certainly prefer to take my dogs with me than leave them behind! And I know they would rather be traveling rather than being left behind!

Heartworm Treatment and Prevention

By Karin Jessen

Everyone who has pets should know about heartworms. Heartworms in your pets start with a bite from an infected mosquito that is carrying microscopic heartworm larvae. Once the infected mosquito bites your pet, the tiny larvae enter the pet and find their way into the veins, eventually migrating to the arteries of the lungs. This could cause severe lung inflammation and heart failure. The sad thing is that the owner is totally unaware that this has taken place. If left untreated, heartworms can cause coughing, difficulty with breathing, energy loss, dizziness and even death.

Diagnosis of heartworms is done by taking a fecal sample from the pet. If the fecal sample is positive for heartworms, treatment is available for dogs, but there is no approved treatment for cats. Although there are different protocols for heartworm treatment for dogs, the most common is multiple injections of an arsenic-based drug administered in several steps. Not only

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Meet LT (Little Tiger) and Mr. Rumbles

By Janet Kile

Karen Whitaker posted a Newline article on January 23 about two stray cats behind her husband's office in Oak Ridge. The area is heavily wooded and is home to coyotes. LT was the last survivor of a litter of 5 kittens, and Mr. Rumbles was obviously an abandoned (unfixed) male.

I contacted Karen and the rest, as they say, is history!

LT and Mr. Rumbles are currently being fostered at my house. They share my guest room and are allowed to roam and explore the kitchen and downstairs when I am home. They are best buds and love to chase each other through the house.

LT is now about a year old and is responding well to socializing. He will come to me, but is not yet ready for me to come to him or to be petted. It has been delightful watching him go from a terrified stray to a confident kitty. He enjoys all of his toys, exploring unknown territory, and playing with Mr. Rumbles.

Mr. Rumbles, appropriately named for the deep rumbling sound he makes, is one of the sweetest cats I have ever fostered. We believe he is about 2-3 years old and he loves nothing more than having his head rubbed and to be brushed, well, maybe eating! He is a big boy weighing in at almost 15 pounds and is always ready for lap time. He is laid back and totally accepting of other cats.

Both of these guys are considered special needs kitties – LT because he has not been fully socialized, and Mr. Rumbles because he has collapsed ears that need to be treated regularly and run the risk of infection. Mr. Rumbles is also missing a few teeth, so his remaining teeth need special attention.

Due to the extraordinary efforts of Debbie Tripp (trapping feral cats is NOT for the faint hearted), who works in the same office as Karen's husband, both guys have been neutered, are current on shots, and tested negative for Feline Leukemia and FIV.

The picture was snapped as Mr. Rumbles

rolled around on my kitchen floor showing me what a handsome guy he is, while LT tried his darnedest to avoid the camera.

Both of these guys are ready for their forever homes! Would love to see them go to the same home as they are so well suited for each other. If you know of anyone wanting these handsome guys, let me know.



Our Mission

Helping Paws Animal Network strives to aid local animals (in Anderson and surrounding counties) in dire situations that are hungry, hurting or homeless. We started the network in April 2011 as a group of people who found in each other a love of animals and a desire to help where we can.

We pool our resources to assist verified rescue groups when funding is needed for food, shelter, vet services, boarding, etc. 100% of our money goes toward animal welfare. Donations can be made online at our Facebook site; they can also be made via cash or check. There are no obligations or expectations of our members, and we provide total transparency where funding is concerned.

We want to help every animal in need, but the needs exceed the means; therefore, we prioritize verified cases based on available funds at the time of the request, and no money is given directly to an individual or individual pet owner. We pay the veterinarian, the kennel, or the appropriate vendor, and/or purchase the required needs, such as food, supplies, or medicine.

We also serve as a network for electronically posting homeless animals and assist with spay/neuter costs prior to homing when needed and feasible.

Our charter team meets once monthly and communicates regularly to assist animals in need and plan events. No funds are spent without a charter majority. Charter team members are: Patti Mynatt, Amy Starkey, Leigh Ann Pennington, Karin Jessen, Janet Kile and Tim Ledford.

Helping Hungry, Hurting and Homeless Animals

Heartworm Treatment & Prevention

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is this treatment painful for the dog, the dying heartworms can cause a reaction in the lungs which can prove fatal for the dog. Therefore, the dog must be kept quiet for 6-8 weeks. This means only leash walking for potty breaks and crate time. About 4-6 months after the treatment another fecal sample is taken to ensure the heartworms are completely out of the dog's system.

Cost for treatment varies, but can range from about \$350-\$1200 and possibly more if there are complications. The cost includes heartworm test, radiographs, blood work, treatment and boarding overnight to ensure the dog is doing ok, post treatment and finally another heartworm test.

The good news is that heart worm disease is totally preventable. A heartworm pill for both dogs and cats is available and must be given monthly. Most dogs consider this a treat. Each pill costs about \$15.00, depending on the size of the animal, but this is certainly much better than paying for a very expensive treatment that is hard on your dog! If you miss a month, get your dog tested for heartworms prior to giving another heartworm prevention pill. The pill does not prevent your dog from becoming infected, but it does kill the early developing heartworms.

A heartworm fecal test should be done annually. In the event that your dog tests positive for heartworms AND you have been consistent with heartworm pills every 30 days, then the company will most likely treat your dog for heartworms, at no charge to you. However, you have to prove you have given your dog the prevention every month. To do this, your vet must prove that you have purchased the heartworm prevention through their office. If you buy the medication online, then the company most likely will not pay for treatment.

It is very rare for humans to get heartworms. You cannot get heartworms from your pets. A human can get heartworms the same way as animals, through an infected mosquito.

And finally, infected mosquitoes are found everywhere in the United States all year long. Good pet owners will provide their pets with food, water, shelter, lots of love and attention and proper veterinary care, which includes a monthly pill to prevent heartworm disease. This makes for happy people and happy pets!

