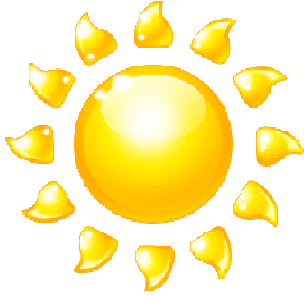


1460 Swan Road
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 336-9595
www.happytailsclinic.com



Hot! Hot!! HOT!!!

The long-awaited warm weather has finally arrived! This means it's time to get outside with the family, which includes our 4-legged members as well. When traveling with your pets (dog or cat), make sure to keep them safe and cool. Even on cooler days, cars can heat up to dangerous temperatures in a matter of minutes. Even parking in the shade with windows cracked, animals can succumb to heatstroke or death if left unattended. If you have to run into the store, keeping the car running with the A/C on will prevent the pet from overheating or worse, death.

The temperatures inside a

vehicle can increase by 40 degrees in 10 minutes or less on very hot days. When it is 80 degrees outside, the inside temperature can get up to 114 degrees within 30 minutes. Dogs and cats cannot cool themselves down as easily as people; once they overheat, they can suffer extensive organ damage or die. Symptoms of heat stress include increased panting to heavy panting, drooling, and restlessness. Pets will become weak and the color of their gums may change. They may also start to stagger and experience vomiting, diarrhea or seizures.

What should you do if you come across a pet locked in a car? It is important to get the

animal out of the vehicle as soon as possible. Alerting store staff, calling the police (or animal control) is also important. Watch the animal for signs of distress and wait for the owner to return to their vehicle. However, there are times you cannot avoid leaving your pet in the car, so keeping the car running with the air on will help. Keeping a water bowl (not metal) in your vehicle with fresh water will help keep your pet hydrated. You can lose your pet in less than 6 minutes so keep in mind: just as you wouldn't leave your children in a hot car, do the same for your pets.

WHO KNEW?

- Cats have four rows of whiskers and can either be right-pawed or left-pawed.
- The expression "three dog night" originated with the Eskimos and means a very cold night—so cold that you have to bed down with three dogs to keep warm.
- Every year, \$1.5 billion is spent on pet food—four times the amount spent on baby food!

HEALTH FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Blood testing is an important step when looking at your pet's overall health from the inside.

It is important to have tests performed when your pet is healthy so your vet has a baseline to compare results if or when your pet gets sick. Lab tests are of most use when performed along with a physical exam and a patient history from the owner.

Blood work can screen for diabetes, liver or kidney disease. Many of these problems may not be obvious on a physical exam just by looking, listening and touching, but if caught early, can be successfully treated or controlled giving your pet a longer and better quality of life.

Sometimes we can reach a diagnosis based on the blood work results alone:

other times the changes in the blood work may lead us to more diagnostic testing to reach a cause of illness. When we don't get an absolute answer from blood work, it helps guide us to what the next diagnostic step should be, such as radiographs, urine tests, ultrasounds or specific blood testing.

**"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
-Anatole France**



SUN SAFETY

We all love summer and like to enjoy as much time in the nice weather while we can, and since our pets are part of our family we want them to enjoy it with us! Unfortunately there are some safety concerns, but as long as we are aware of these and take the right precautions, our pets should be able to enjoy the summertime with us!

Over-heating - Symptoms of over-heating include excessive panting, labored breathing, increased heart rate, drooling, weakness, or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomiting, along with a temperature of over 104 degrees. Flat faced dogs and cats



are more susceptible to overheating. Make sure long coats are kept trimmed and brushed.

Dehydration – your pet should have plenty of clean water available, especially when it's hot outdoors.

Pets should have a shaded area available to them, along with giving them frequent breaks from activity.

Visit the vet – Early spring or summer check ups are important to make sure your pets are in good

health and are up to date on their Heartgard and Frontline/Nexgard.

Splash safely – Introduce your pets to water gradually and do not leave them unsupervised around a swimming area; not all pets are good swimmers! Also if around a pool with chlorine, make sure your pets do not drink the water & that you rinse them off afterward.

Walks & backyard barbecues– Don't let your pooch stand on hot asphalt, as sensitive paws can burn and being so close to the ground can make your pet's body temperature rise quickly. Make sure any insect repellent you use is labeled for use in pets. Keep alcohol, citronella candles, and fireworks at a safe distance from pets, as these can all be toxic and harmful.

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Summer is a time for fun in the sun and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, it is also a time where our pets are vulnerable to a variety of pests lurking in places unseen.

We all know about **ticks**. Wooded areas are their prime hunting ground. Not only do they have the potential to carry Lyme disease, they can also transmit other serious diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. Make sure to thoroughly check yourself and your pets for ticks after outings. **Fleas** can be found anywhere in the country: they especially love warmer climates with high humidity.

According to the American Animal Hospital Association, one flea can multiply into 1,000 fleas in your home in just 21 days. They can cause itching, scratching, hair loss, and scabs on your pets, as well as anemia, plague or even tapeworms.

On our clothing or through a screen are just a couple ways **mosquitoes** can get into our homes. Their bite causes itchy bumps, which can be painful enough, but they can also carry some serious and life-threatening diseases. They can carry Saint Louis encephalitis and West Nile Virus. **Heartworm** disease, a worm found in the heart that can affect both dogs and cats, is a preventable, silent killer that can be treated if caught

in time.

Botfly latch on to warm-blooded animals, and can cause symptoms as severe as seizures, aggression, blindness and lumps where they take up residence. In cats, the larvae typically travel to the brain.

More of a nuisance than a danger, **Sarcoptes Scabiei Mites**, also known as **scabies** or **mange**, typically appear as open wounds. Treatment is similar to that of fleas, but more aggressive, with quarantining and thorough baths.

Heartgard, Frontline, Nexgard, and Revolution are simple ways to help prevent unwanted friends and are available at Happy Tails to keep all your pets safe.



TAIL LANGUAGE

Dogs have body language just as humans do, and are much better at reading each other than we are at reading them. Interestingly, dogs only wag their tails for humans and other animals (such as cats); they do not wag their tails when alone because there is no need. Just as we smile and use non-verbal communication, dogs use their tails to show interest and avoid conflicts.

It's a common misconception that any tail wag equals a happy dog, but there's several different types of wagging, each communicating dif-

ferent meanings or social cues.

- Happy dogs will wag to the right or back & forth, while frightened dogs will wag to the left.
- When being "nosy", the tail will remain horizontal to the ground.
- When frightened or in a submissive state, the tail will be tucked between the hind legs.
- When worried or insecure, the tail will wag low.

Dogs also wag their tails to spread their unique, natural scent from their anal glands. An "alpha" or dominant dog that carries his tail high will release more of

his scent than a dog that carries his tail low. To "fly under the radar", a dog will hold it's tail between his legs.

Since tails are essential to communication, pooches without tails typically approach other dogs with caution so there's no miscommunication or fights. A playful pup might not be able to interpret cues from the tail-less dog, so he won't back down, causing the tail-less pooch to resort to biting or other acts of aggression if he feels threatened.

Please pass on this information, especially to children who are often unable to tell the difference in their dog's mood.