

FIREWORKS & STORMS



Some dogs are very afraid of fireworks. Often these same dogs also display fearful behavior during thunderstorms. Both situations are commonplace in the summer holidays. There are now products on the market specifically designed to assist fearful dogs (and cats) in these situations. Ask your vet for more details.

Plan accordingly to ensure your dog is unable to escape during these events. Dogs can jump very high fences or some will tunnel under to escape when panicked. A friend of mine owns a Border Collie that was so afraid during a storm it smashed through a high window to escape. More dogs are found wandering the streets on New Year's Day than any other time during the holidays.

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EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

It is worthwhile to take a few minutes to "bone up" on your first aid knowledge. Either Google™ for information or invest in a good book or app on pet first aid. Gather your basic supplies for a basic pet first aid kit that includes items such as bandages, charcoal tablets and a tick removal device such as tweezers should they be needed in a hurry.

If you live in a bushfire or cyclone prone area, factor in your pets when creating your emergency plan. Stickers are available such as the one shown here to advise emergency rescuers that pets are in your household. You may like to place on up in a prominent place in the event of a fire or similar emergency.



NEW XMAS PUPPY

During the holiday season, more puppies and kittens are sold than at any other time during the year, largely as people often have time off work during this period. If you have chosen this time to adopt your new companion, please be mindful of the dangers previously mentioned.

Puppies have special requirements and you should enroll in a good puppy class without delay. Many dog obedience schools close down over the Summer due to the heat, but there is a wealth of information on basic puppy training available in print and on the internet.

Visit www.dogstardaily.com and www.baybark.com.au for many free puppy raising tips.



Although other priorities present themselves at this time of year, try to make training your puppy one of them.

Remember, a pet is for life, not just for Xmas!



Holiday Season Dog Care & Safety Tips



Want more?
For more training tips or to
book a training consultation
go to
www.baybark.com.au

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Start off on the right paw...then do more!

SUMMER HOLIDAY DANGERS

Summertime in Australia coincides with the seasonal holidays. During this time the average Aussie household is busy preparing for parties, barbeques and of course gift giving and celebration.

It also is a time of dangers to pets that we should be aware of and manage carefully so that our happy times are not marred by unplanned trips to the vet or animal emergency centre.

In this brochure, I will outline some of the more common holiday dangers and steps you can take to manage them for a happy, safe season.

HOT WEATHER DANGER

The Australian summer just gets hotter every year. At



this time our country is plagued by bushfires, searing heat and windy days, and while humans have opportunities to control temperature, our family pets do not. A few

simple checks on the pet's environment, in particular when we are not home can make the difference between life and death.

- Make sure the pet has access to shade or ventilation at all times. If you keep your dog indoors make sure that shutters, curtains, doors and windows are closed to keep cool air in and hot air out. Provide a fan or air conditioner for your pet if you can.
- Provide multiple water containers. Some breeds bathe or paddle in their drinking bowl and the water may be quickly lost. Large heavy containers are best or if you have a "swimmer" there are hose attachments that can drip supply water all day which may be well worth the investment. Make sure you place the water containers in a shaded spot.



A plastic wading pool with a very low level of water for safety is appreciated by most dogs.

- If you have a pool, ensure it is fenced for the safety of your children and pets. Teach both to swim and how to get to the exit should they fall in inadvertently. There are plastic ramps available to buy for this purpose.



- Don't over exercise your dog in hot weather. Be conscious of the surface you are walking on. If you ***are wearing shoes you may not realize how hot surfaces like concrete and bitumen are on your dogs feet. Working breeds that love to play fetch games can, and will keep going on the hottest of days and are prime candidates for heat strokes. If you like to run with your dog, choose early mornings or the cool of the evenings to do so.***

BEACH SAFETY

Dog friendly beaches are becoming more common and are a wonderful way of cooling down your dog during the summer months. There are however some things to remember when visiting the beach with your dog.

- Not all dogs can swim naturally. Don't force your dog to go out of his depth. Dog floatation devices are available from most large pet stores and can be used on weak swimmers or when the dog is on a boat.
- Try to avoid throwing sticks for your dog to fetch. They can splinter and also cause eye injury particularly when multiple dogs are vying for possession. There are plenty of aqua toys available, including plastic "sticks" that are a much safer choice.



- Watch what your dog picks up on the beach. Rolling in something smelly is one thing but eating jellyfish or taking a bite of a puffer fish can have fatal consequences. If your dog is found with one of these in his mouth, seek veterinary advice immediately, even if he has not swallowed the creature.



CAR TRAVEL

Every year many pets die by being left in hot cars. Owners think that having the windows open a crack is fine but cars can heat up to fatal temperatures in minutes. Never ever leave your dog unattended in a vehicle even when the windows are down. It is better to leave your dog at home than to take them for a drive in the car on a warm or hot day.

PARTY HAZARDS

Watch out for the following hazards during household parties and barbeques when pets are around.

- Make sure you are conscious of the front door being opened multiple times during a party. It doesn't take much for Fido to slip out unnoticed and it can often be quite some time before owners realize he is gone.
- Dogs can ingest odd things at any time, but some "party foods" are of particular concern. Chocolate, nuts, raisins, fatty foods, even onion gravy can turn a fun time into an emergency very quickly. Do not give alcohol to dogs under any circumstances no matter how funny it looks.
- Presents, tinsel and strange smelling packages under Xmas trees can be all too tempting for your dog. Ensure Fido is not left alone to get into these items. Tinsel and Xmas tree lights can get swallowed and caught in the gut making for very expensive vet procedures.

