

THE K9 TIMES

"DOGS ARE NOT OUR WHOLE LIFE, BUT THEY MAKE OUR LIVES WHOLE." (R. CARAS)

June 2017

3 SUMMER DANGERS TO YOUR DOG

WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW COULD HURT YOUR DOG

SUNBURN

Yes, your dog can get sunburn and skin cancer! Especially those breeds who are:

- White and light-colored;
- Thinly-coated/short-haired;
- Shaved: and
- ☼ Pitbulls.

Protect your K9 from the strong summer sun by regularly applying waterproof sunscreen formulated for pets (or babies) to:

- Noses, ears and tails;
- Around the mouth; and
- The stomach and back.



EAR MITES

Has your dog begun to excessively shake his head, paw or scratch at his ears, head and neck? Is there flaky black discharge/ear wax, visible redness and tenderness? He may have a common parasitic infection called ear mites. Swab the inside of the ear (not too deeply) and look for any small white parasites moving on the tip of the swab. If there are mites, use over-the-counter liquid ear mite drops or natural remedies like olive oil, almond oil, yellow dock root extract or Vitamin E.

If you notice a foul smell (indicating possibly more than a minor case of ear mites), visit your vet for diagnosis and treatment before serious, permanent damage happens.

Ear mites are very contagious, so treat all animals in the household (including cats, rabbits and ferrets) and clean your home thoroughly. (Some good news: mites cannot survive long away from your pet's body.)

NOT ALL DOGS CAN (OR WANT) TO SWIM

In fact, some breeds are not physically built to swim; including the:



- ☆ French Bulldog ☼ Dachshund
- Chow Chow
- ☼ Pekingese
- ☼ English Bulldog ⇒ Bull Terrier
 - ☼ Shih-Tzu
 - ☼ Corgi ☼ Pug
- So, before you head out to the beach or allow
- your dog around the pool, make sure: Your dog likes the water; and
 - They can swim to safety on their own (in case they jump or fall into the deep end).

If your dog cannot swim, find a qualified dog trainer to teach him, protect him with a properly fitted K9 life-vest or keep him confined to the

(**Sources:** PetMD.com, Pet360.com, iHeartDogs.com and DogingtonPost.com)



THE ONE MINUTE DOG TIP

THE MOST TOXIC WILDFLOWER

It looks soft, delicate and even beautiful; but this wildflower is one of the most toxic plants your dog (or even your child) can be exposed

to with fact-acting and deadly consequences (within minutes).

Typically found in wet areas in North America and Europe, Water Hemlock is flourishing due to the heavy moisture in the winter and the subsequent flooding this spring. Often mistaken for edible plants, learn exactly what to look for to keep both dogs and kids safe.



(For more information, go to: www.petguide.com/insurance/dog/ what-are-the-dangers-of-water-hemlock-to-dogs





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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OTHER SUMMER DANGERS TO YOUR DOG

(POST ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR AS A HANDY REMINDER)



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CANINE FIRST AID BASICS

WHAT IF YOUR DOG SHOWS SIGNS OF HEAT STRESS?



What if, despite your best intentions, your dog begins to show signs of heat stress? It's just as important to know what you should - and should not - do to help your K9 cool down safely.

Below are five important tips to help you prevent or address heat stress and potential heat stroke in your dog.

YOU SHOULD NOT DO THIS

- ~ Do NOT submerge an overheated dog in cold water as this can make things worse; sudden cold will tighten vessels up and stop all heat dissipation.
- ~ Do NOT continue to exert your dog; stop and rest in shade and slowly give them water until they can continue or call for help to get them home.

YOU SHOULD DO THIS

- Prevent your dog from overheating by walking or exercising only during the cooler hours.
- Watch for signs of heavy panting, confusion or unusual behavior and stop immediately.
- Never leave your dog unattended in the heat/sun.

If your dog does overheat, go immediately to the vet to be checked out; time is of the essence.

(Sources: TalentHounds.ca, PetMD.com, DrsFosterSmith.com)



FROSTY TREATS YOU'LL BOTH

You still want to give your dog a healthy summer treat, but without cooking.

How about these easy-peasy frozen treats ... just 3 simple ingredients; blend, pour, freeze and serve!

FROZEN BANANA TREATS

- 4 cups plain, low-fat, sugar-free yogurt
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter (xylitol-free!)
- 3 bananas, ripe, peeled and mashed

Put all ingredients into a food processor and blend to a puree.

Pour into your favorite molds, ice cube trays or 4-ounce plastic cups (or an appropriate size for your dog).

Freeze until firm. Pop the treats out and let your dog cool off (along with you and the kids)!

Can be stored in the freezer for up to two weeks.

(Experiment by adding nuts, small pieces of fruit or even vegetables for different variations.)

(Source: Food.com)











