

Summer 2006

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BRADSHAW VETERINARY CLINIC

Summer 2006 Newsletter

Animal Health News: Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is a condition arising from extremely high body temperature (rectal temperature of 105 to 110 degrees F), which leads to nervous system abnormalities such as lethargy, weakness, collapse or coma. Abnormally high body temperature develops after increased muscular activity with impaired ability to give off heat due to high heat and humidity or respiratory obstruction. Allowing a dog to remain in a car with closed windows on a hot summer day is probably the most common cause of heat stroke.

Normal dogs dissipate heat from their skin. In addition, panting allows evaporation of water from the respiratory tract and is an effective method of heat dissipation. When these mechanisms are overwhelmed, hyperthermia and heat stroke usually develop. At temperatures greater than 109 F, failure of vital organs, and consequently death, can occur.

Heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramps can occur after exposure to extremely high environmental temperatures. These illnesses occur in all mammals and can be prevented by taking proper precautions.

Animals at greatest risk for heat-related illness include:

- Puppies up to 6 months of age
- Overweight dogs
- Dogs that are overexerted during exercise
- Dogs that are ill or receiving certain medications
- Dogs with short, wide heads like pugs, English bulldogs and Boston terriers

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New Clinic Hours

We are excited to announce that our clinic is now be open for appointments from 6 am until 10 pm seven days a week! We have extended our hours to accommodate our client's busy schedules. With more available appointments each day, we intend to decrease the number of "walk ins" and encourage everyone to call and schedule an appointment before coming into the hospital. Patients seen without an appointment

are subject to an emergency fee.

Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Sara Wentz, our newest Small Animal Associate Veterinarian!

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Dates to Remember:

- *Low Cost Vaccination Clinics*
First Saturday of Each Month
9am-11am

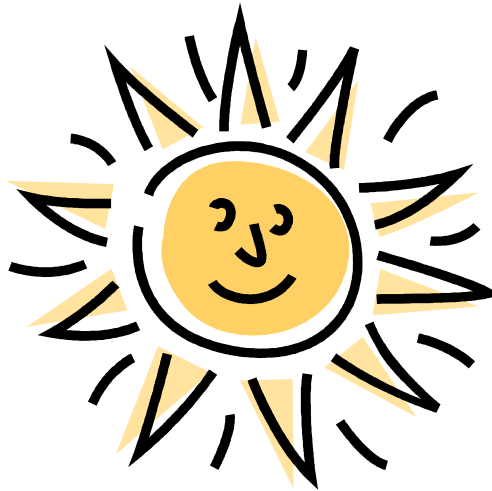
Heat Stroke (cont.)

- Dogs with airway obstructive diseases
- Dogs with pre-existing fever
- Dogs that are dehydrated
- Dogs with heart disease
- Dogs with poor circulation due to cardiovascular or other underlying disease
- Older pets
- What to watch for:
- Noisy breathing that may indicate upper airway obstruction
- Excessive panting
- Bright red mucous membranes (gums, conjunctiva of the eyes)
- Weakness
- Collapse
- Coma

Diagnostic tests are needed to diagnose heat stroke and assess the extent of vital organ dysfunction, including:

- A complete medical history and thorough physical examination, including rectal temperature.
- A complete blood count (CBC) to assess the severity of dehydration and cardiovascular stress.

- Coagulation tests to determine if there is a failure in blood clotting that is often a complication of heat stroke
- Blood tests to check blood glucose concentration, assess the extent of damage to vital organs, such as muscles, kidneys and liver to evaluate the electrolyte and acid base status.



The treatment of heat stroke depends upon the severity of the illness. Animals with temperatures less than 105 F may only require rest, fresh water and careful observation. Temperatures of 105 to 107 should be hospitalized on intravenous fluids. Temperatures over 107 must be treated more aggressively and cooling can be promoted externally by immersion in cool water or internally by administering a cool water enema. Additional treatments may be needed if secondary complications arise such as: liver failure, kidney failure, muscle breakdown, low blood pressure, low blood sugar, convulsions and secondary infections.

Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency, but there are several things you can do to prevent heat related problems for your dog. Monitor outdoor temperatures and minimize your dog's activity on hot, humid days. NEVER leave your dog in a car, even with the windows partially rolled down, for any reason at any time. Leaving dogs in a car during warm weather is the most common cause of heat stroke. Provide your dog with plenty of fresh water and plenty of shade.

Vaccination Clinic

Our monthly vaccination clinics are back and will run through October! The clinics are offered the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 11 am. The services available at the clinics include:

- Discounted vaccinations
- Microchipping
- Heartworm testing
- FELV/FIV testing
- Parasite prevention products

- Fecal examinations
- Deworming
- Nail trims

Unfortunately, we are unable to treat any medical conditions your pet may have during this time. If your pet needs attention from a veterinarian please give us a call to schedule an appointment.

Independence Day Safety Tips

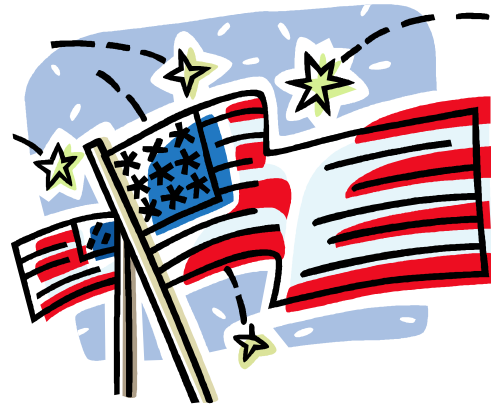
Here are some tips to keep your animals safe during the 4th of July celebrations.

Independence Day can be a fun celebration for humans. But it can be traumatic for your pets! By taking these precautions, you and your dogs and cats can have a safe and happy experience. Here are some tips to protect your pets and keep them safe.

- Dogs and cats do not like fireworks. Bangs, explosions and bright lights accompanied by screams and howling dogs create fear and confusion. It is not unusual for dogs and cats to run away from home after being frightened by fireworks.
- Don't leave your pets outside; bring them inside to protect them. If this is not possible, cover the crate or kennel with a blanket to offer some protection from bright flashes and loud noises. Remember that both cat's and dog's sense of hearing is acute.
- Keep your pets confined and don't let them go to the door. Your animal may be under significant stress which may result in unnecessary injury to innocent parties or cause your pets to dart out through the front door and get lost.
- Create a special area where your pets feel safe. A properly introduced crate or kennel can be a great den for your dog.
- Keep windows and curtains closed to reduce noises and bright flashes.
- Turn on the TV, radio or exhaust fan to distract your dog from the loud noises outside and to help your pets relax. Classical music has shown to be the most calming.
- It may be hard, but try to stay with your pet during the

majority of the fireworks duration. Pets can react often react differently to a bang when you are not around.

- Always have identification securely on your pets in case they get out. Use recent phone numbers so if someone finds your animal, they can call you. The best form of identification is in a safe, permanent, universal microchip. Ask us how easy it is to have your pets microchipped!



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