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DOG DAZE OF SUMMER – A message from Snohomish County Animal Services

Here are a few tips to protect your pets from the heat, to keep them safe during the July 4th celebrations, and to reduce the number of dog bites this summer.

Protecting Pets from the Heat

A hot, summer day can turn your car into an oven and pets left in the car can suffer from dehydration, heatstroke, shock, unconsciousness and even death.

- Avoid taking your dog in the car if at all possible – your dog will be happier at home with access to fresh clean water to drink, ample shade and shelter
- Short muzzled dogs may be more at risk than long muzzled dogs
- Cracking your car windows a couple of inches does not allow enough ventilation or air circulation to keep your pets cool inside on hot summer days – an 80 degree day can turn your car into an oven quickly and your pet may suffocate
- The critical stages to be aware of are: dehydration, heatstroke, shock, unconsciousness followed by death

Fourth of July Celebrations

After the July 4th holiday, animal shelters and animal control agencies are overwhelmed with calls from frantic pet owners looking for lost pets as well as calls from citizens that find stray dogs and cats running loose in their neighborhood.

- Bring your dogs and cats indoors if possible
- Turn on the radio or TV to help buffer the outside noise – be there to reassure your nervous pet. Firecrackers and fireworks can terrify cats and dogs. Many run to get away from the noise. Your pet may be disoriented in unfamiliar surroundings and become lost, hit by car or attacked by another animal.
- Go to your local animal shelter if your pet is missing. Be sure to check back frequently as it may take a few days before your pet is found and taken to the local animal shelter.
- License and microchip your pet – it's the best way to ensure your lost pet will be returned
 - Finders of lost licensed pets can access pet owner contact information via phone (425-388-3627 Option 2) or the internet (www.co.snohomish.wa.us – search “pets”) to help reunite pets with their owners.
 - Microchips provide great backup support in the event the pet license tag is missing. Local animal shelters, veterinary clinics and animal control officers are equipped with microchip scanners.

Keep Kids & Dogs Safe

Summer is “peak dog bite season” for Animal Control agencies. Kids are home from school, playing, running and dogs run loose with the kids.

- All dogs are capable of biting, given the right circumstances
 - Dogs need to be on leash and under control when off of the owner’s property
 - 4.7 million people or 2% of the national population are bitten by dogs annually according to the Center for Disease Control
 - 80% of the victims are children
- Source: (www.dogbitelaw.com)

Make it a safe, pet friendly summer by being a responsible pet owner. Please do not leave your pets locked inside a hot car, provide ample fresh water and shade, license and microchip your pets and keep dogs on leash.

Snohomish County Animal Control Services can be reached by calling 425-388-3440. Citizens can file animal related complaints on-line at www.co.snohomish.wa.us and search “pets.”

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