



Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

Contact:

Virginia V. Mann

Phone: 312-420-3344

Email: Virginia@VirginiaMann.com

Web site: www.VirginiaMann.com

Summer Days Bring Health Hazards for Pets

CHICAGO, IL. (June 21, 2012) – Summer brings time at the beach, cookouts, running and other outdoor activities for people. For pets, these fun, warm weather activities can mean exposure to serious – or even fatal – health hazards.

Each year, the emergency room at Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (CVESC) (www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com) treats more than 11,000 dogs and cats in need of emergency care. A disproportionate number come to the facility during Chicago's summer months. Veterinarians at CVESC treat pets suffering from problems such as heatstroke; falls from windows, balconies and decks; food borne illness; insect borne illness and more. Such cases can require extensive medical treatment, hospitalization or surgery. Sometimes, the pet cannot be saved. Frequently, the situation could have been avoided.

“Often, people don’t realize how many dangers cats and dogs are exposed to during warm weather months,” said Dr. Jerry Klein, supervising veterinarian at CVESC. “Events that can be fun for people, like cookouts or a day at the beach, can become catastrophic for pets. Pets can quickly become dehydrated, suffer from sunburn, or acquire diseases from fleas, ticks and mosquitoes. The result can be harmful to pets and costly for their owners.”

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center encourages pet owners to take precautions to protect their pets during the summer season.

Warm weather dangers

Beaches, Boats & Pools –Not all dogs are good swimmers, so when on a boat or near a pool, keep your pet in a flotation device designed for their species and fitted to them. At the beach, pool or on a boat, make certain your pet has a shaded spot and plenty of fresh, clean drinking water.

Bug Spray and Sun Screen – Do not use human products on pets. Only apply products to pets that are specifically labeled for use on them.

Cars - Never leave your pet unattended in a car, even for short periods of time. Cars heat up quickly and pets can suffer from heatstroke – a serious problem that can damage the kidneys, liver, brain and other organs. Signs of heatstroke include excessive panting and drooling, mild weakness and elevated body temperature. Warm weather is especially problematic for older, chronically-ill, overweight, or pug-nosed animals.

Cookouts – Keep your pet on its regular diet. Eating hot dogs, bratwurst, etc. can do more than cause an upset stomach -- it can lead to pancreatitis, a serious illness for pets. And be sure to keep alcoholic beverages away from pets as alcohol is poisonous to them.

Exercise – Your pet needs spring training! Gradually get your dog into shape for a summer running program. Without proper conditioning, dogs can suffer from injuries just like people do.

Gardens – Many plants, such as lily, azalea, oleander and others are poisonous to pets. Make certain your pets aren't eating plants in your garden. Herbicides and pesticides can also be toxic, so follow the directions closely and don't allow pets into a treated area until the directions say it is safe to do so.

Parasites – Fleas, ticks and mosquitoes all carry disease that can be harmful or even fatal to your pet. Pet owners should work with their primary care veterinarian to make certain the pet is up-to-date on the necessary vaccines.

Traveling - When travelling in a car, pets should be secured in a crate or with a specially designed seatbelt harness. Dogs should not be allowed to hang their head out of the window. All pets should be micro-chipped so that it can quickly be reunited with its owner should it become lost.

Windows, balconies & decks – Each summer, Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center treats dozens of pets that have fallen or jumped from windows, balconies and decks. The injuries can be extensive, and sometimes the pet cannot be saved. Pets should be kept away from open windows and safely secured with a harness leash held by a responsible adult when on balconies and decks.

A full list of warm weather dangers can be found at www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com

Media Availability: Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center will make every effort to provide credentialed members of the media access to a staff veterinarian for interviews and to our facility to shoot background footage. To arrange an interview or to shoot footage at the facility, please contact Virginia Mann, 312-420-3344 or Virginia@VirginiaMann.com

About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency center, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center (CVESC) today provides the most advanced emergency, critical and specialty care available to cats and dogs. Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center is always open – 24 hours each day, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, CVESC has board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, radiology and surgery to treat pets with special medical or emergency needs. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. CVESC has been providing care for Chicago-area pets when they need it most for more than 30 years.