

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue

Summer Safety and Golden Rules to Live by



It's heating up and as we have fun enjoying the outdoors this summer, there are real dangers for your dog. By taking a few steps you can ensure your pets safety and decrease the chance that disaster will happen.

HEAT STROKE:

NEVER leave your dog in the car!

Even if you crack the window and park in the shade, the inside of your car can reach 120 degrees in a matter of minutes! Your pet can not perspire; they can only expel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet, so they overheat quickly. Dogs are not as efficient at cooling themselves as humans are. Just being gone a minute while leaving your dog in the car could result in heat stroke, brain damage or death.

If your dog is left outside:

Make sure the dog has protection from the direct sun (shade tree, patio cover, etc.) and has plenty of clean drinking water. If it gets overheated, it can get heat-stroke in its own backyard.

Exercising your dog on a hot day:

If you're going to exercise your dog in the middle of the day when the temperature is at the highest, extra care needs to be taken with older dogs, short-nosed dogs, and those with thick coats. Make sure you watch their breathing and look for heat-stroke signs as listed below. Also make sure they get breaks, rest and plenty of water.

Action: On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Keep in mind that asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws. If you can't walk bare-footed, then they should not endure the heat either.

Action: Make sure they have time to rest and have plenty of clean drinking water available.

Signs of over heating

Extreme panting or labored breathing
The gums or eye membranes become a bright red
Extremely fatigued
Collapse and unconsciousness
Potential seizures
Lack of coordination
Excessive thirst
Vomiting
Rapid heart rate

What to do:

1. If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms, get him out of the heat immediately and into the shade.
2. Use cool wet towels to bring down his temperature. If possible, place him in a tub of cool (NOT COLD) water. **Do not use very cold water or ice**, as this will constrict the blood vessels and won't allow your dog's body to release the heat.
3. Let your dog have small drinks of water
4. Take your pet to the vet hospital ASAP! Heat stroke is very serious and is considered an emergency situation.

General Safety Rules

DO NOT put your pet in the back of a truck!

The back of a truck bed can be very hot and the pads of your dog's feet can be impacted and burned. Not to mention flying debris, if there is a sudden stop the dog can be thrown out and possible hit by another car.

Action: Dogs should ride in the cab in a secure crate or with a harness made for dogs (doggie seat belt) you can purchase at a pet supply store.

POOL SAFETY:

Always watch your dog around a pool, make sure he does not have free access to the outdoor pool.

Danger 1: Drinking the pool water that is treated with harsh chemicals can be very harmful and poisonous. Keep your pets away from the pool and do not allow them to drink the water.

Action: Clean your pool with eco-friendly cleaners and dispose of the old chemical laced water.

Danger 2: Pets can easily drown in pools, whether covered or not. Many pool covers are not attached all the way around the edge, leaving a gap that a dog can wiggle through. If there is a pool cover that floats on top, a larger dog could think that is a solid surface and may try to walk over it. If the dog is older or unstable, the dog could fall in as well.

Action: Make sure your dog does not have free access to the pool area. Block off the area or fence the area around the pool.

4th of July Fireworks

If your dog is sensitive keep him away from all the noise. Fireworks are not fun for most dogs. Even if your dog does not show signs of stress when there are thunderstorms, it may still have problems with the sounds of fireworks. They can bolt, pace and try to find a place to hide. Many dogs run away and get disoriented; there are always reports of dogs getting hit by cars on the 4th of July!

Action: If you're out with your dog, keep him on a very short leash. Some fireworks look like sticks, so the dog thinks they are toys. At night, the sudden flash and loud noises disorient animals and can cause them to run towards the danger instead of away from it.



Action: At night when the noise really ramps up keep your dogs indoors! Many dogs have escaped from the yard from fear, run and gotten hit by a car or are never found. Some dog their way out of the yard, fence or kennel.

Action: If you already know your pet is afraid of the fireworks and loud noises, contact your veterinarian for medication if necessary to keep them clam.

If your dog gets lost:

Action: Always have a collar with tags on your pet. The tag should have at least two phone numbers on it: your home phone or cell number and a number where you can be reached when on vacation.

Action: If you are camping, cell phones may not work. Homeward Bound Dogs have been micro chipped; make sure you have called the appropriate company to change the information to your current name, address and phone number with alternate contacts.

Action: When on vacation, have an alternate number (a friend in the area, temporary hotel phone number, etc,) where you can definitely be contacted in case you and your pet are separated.

Summertime Fleas and Ticks:

Use flea and tick treatments are important, especially in the summer months. Use one recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

It is important to use it when traveling; some areas are infested with fleas and ticks even if your area is not. You can inadvertently bring fleas and ticks home with you!

In addition to protecting your dog from fleas and ticks, Heartworm Disease is a concern. The disease is transferred from animal to animal through mosquitoes; if your pet is not protected he could contract it. Make sure you give Heartworm prevention monthly, the cost of the medication is very small compared to the painful treatment of Heartworm Disease.



While the summer months can be fun while being outdoors, they can also be dangerous, please remember to keep your dog's safety in mind with that of your family.