



Dog Face, LLC

# Warm Weather Tips

Wisconsin summer months can bring long, hot days. Dogs, cats, and other animals can suffer the same problems that people do – overheating, dehydration and even sunburn! By taking these simple precautions, you can help protect your best friend from the elements, and have a fun, safe summer!

Never ever leave your pet in a vehicle alone. Even with the windows open, a parked vehicle can become an oven on a warm day (even when you don't think it's that warm outside!). Overheating can happen to an animal in a matter of minutes, and can quickly kill...

Do not ask your pet to exercise after in warm or humid weather. I cringe every time I see someone jogging with their dog – their dog's tongue hanging off to the side, behind the jogger at the end of their leash... They cannot sweat like we can and exercising on these warm days can be very damaging. Even in nice weather be careful to prevent bloat by not exercising your dog for at least an hour after they have had a meal. Exercise in the early morning or late evening is best, and keep walks to a minimum. Play inside the air conditioning, or make sure that their dog daycare is climate controlled (doggie pools help too!).

Be careful to not leave your dog standing on hot asphalt. Ouch! We can't tell how hot it is when we are wearing shoes, but this can burn sensitive paw pads very quickly!

Do not take your dog to the beach/boating or camping unless you can provide a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for him/her to drink.

It's smart to provide plenty of shade and a well-constructed doghouse for animals staying outside. Bring your dog inside during the hottest part of the day, and make sure he/she has plenty of cool water. Be sure to keep your cats indoors.

Be extra sensitive to older and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic or snub-nosed dogs such as Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos and Shih Tzus (as well as others), should be allowed to cool themselves of whenever they feel necessary.

Avoid walking your dog in areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. Many neighbors have companies spray their lawns on a regular basis. Some neighbors, however, may spray themselves and you cannot be sure because there is no sign on the yard. Be careful when allowing your dog to walk onto someone else's yard. Be alert for coolant or other automotive fluid leaking from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste, and ingesting just a small amount can be fatal. Call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 4ANI-HELP if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.

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Keep your pet well-groomed to prevent summer skin problems. Shaving a heavy-coated dog's hair to a two-inch length helps prevent overheating. Don't shave the hair down to the skin, though, or you will rob him of protection from the sun and good insulation from the heat. Cats should be brushed often to help keep them healthy and their furry insulation working well!

Bring your companion animal to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check-up - including a test for heartworm, if your dog isn't on year-round preventive medication. Ask your doctor to recommend a safe pest-control program to combat fleas and ticks.

Check your pet regularly, paws for burns, cuts or rubs, nails for chips, coat for hot spots, fleas or ticks, ears for infections or dirt, etc.

Be sure to carry a Pet First Aid Kit in your car at all times! You can purchase one from the Red Cross, or look on the internet to know what contents you should purchase individually.

To prevent escape and/or accidental falls, make sure all windows in your home are properly screened.

Follow these simple guidelines will help to make your pet more comfortable during the warm weather!

**Giene Keyes, CPDT-KA**  
**Owner - Dog Face, LLC**

*Giene Keyes is the Owner of Dog Face, providing positive in-home training, behavior consultations and pet sitting. After receiving "Best of Madison" for two years in a row, Giene sold her dog daycare to focus on her dog behavior work. Giene has been working with pets and their owners for over 20 years. She is a professional dog trainer and behavior specialist in Southern Wisconsin. Giene divides her time between teaching group classes and private lessons – Specializing in manners and aggression cases. Giene works with vets, rescue groups and shelters, evaluating dogs for adoption, developing Canine Aggression Management Programs, and educating staff on dog language and behaviors. She provides behavior consultations for service dog organizations and rescue groups in the Midwest. She is an Instructor with the American Red Cross in Pet CPR and First Aid, a Certified Canine Good Citizen Evaluator with the American Kennel Club, and a Judge for 4-H Obedience and Showmanship. Giene is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer. She routinely presents seminars on dog behavior and training. Giene has been a regular guest on popular Madison radio shows and interviewed many times on local evening newscasts. Giene has also been featured in numerous local magazines, including the cover for Wisconsin Woman in 2010.*

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