

features

■ BASICS

Pet safety makes for happy summer

Marla Somersall
Animal Talk



Summer can be lots of fun, including for family pets.

With everyone enjoying the outdoors and busy with vacation and summer activities, it is important to remember the basics for our pets.

The single most important thing to remember every day in the summer is to check the water bowl. Animals need water to stay hydrated. It is good to have more than one bowl of clean fresh water in different locations that are accessible. Make sure there is water in the house and outside so that it is always available, and use bowls that are not easy to tip. Remember to take water on outings as well.

If your pet is outdoors either with you or alone in the heat of summer, they need access to shaded areas.

Whether in a fenced space, a dog run, or on a tether, dogs and cats need to be able to get out of the sun. Shade and fresh water will keep your pet safe from dehydration and heat stroke.

At a glance:

- Unfortunately, summer also brings possible exposures for pets to various poisons.
- Check out the Pet Poison Helpline for information on what to avoid. The website is: www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/seasons/summer-pet-poisons/

It goes without saying that your dog should never be left in the car, but it continues to happen. It can take as little as 10 minutes to do serious harm. After 20 minutes, 26 degrees C becomes 43 degrees C, even with partly opened windows.

If you see a dog in trouble, get the vehicle information, ask the store to page customers and then call Animal Protection, through the P.E.I. Humane Society, or the police. Waiting for someone official to arrive can waste precious time if an owner is nearby and hears the page.

If your dog likes to travel in the box of the truck, make sure they are safely harnessed or crated. This is legally required under the P.E.I. Animal Welfare Act. With summer traffic and



Biscuit, the dog, drinks out of a sturdy, untipplable water bowl.

BREANNA MCCLOSKEY/SUBMITTED PHOTO



BREANNA MCCLOSKEY/SUBMITTED PHOTO

This dog is learning to be comfortable on a leash. Walking on-leash is required in most parts of P.E.I.

busy streets, a sudden stop can cause unnecessary injury.

One of the best things you can do in the summer is to remem-

ber the leash. With everyone pouring into the parks, beaches and trails, it is important to make sure your dog is under

Happy adoption



PENNY WHEELHOUSE/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Penny Wheelhouse and Jeff and Max Arsenault adopted Sheamus and Leo in May of 2014. Wheelhouse says, "They have grown up into the most adorable and sweetest boys. They have a little brother of whom they take very good care, even bringing him vegetables."

your control at all times. There are off leash spaces available for your dog to enjoy, but in traffic

or public spaces your dog must be on leash.

See KEEPING, B6



Keeping dog on leash helps ensure safety

FROM B5

Even if you believe your dog has perfect behaviour, you may meet less well-trained dogs, boisterous children, a cheeky squirrel or people who are uncomfortable around dogs. Keeping your dog on leash helps you to maintain control and ensure safety for all.

Summer vacation often means that routines are different—be it due to traveling, the cottage, camping or visitors. Your pet may react, so be prepared for a possible change in behaviour, for example, your pet may become more nervous or protective or have less appetite. Maintain as much familiarity as you can and keep your pet under your control.

For information on summer safety with pets, ask your

veterinarian, contact the P.E.I. Humane Society or check online for solving those summer dilemmas to make sure that pets and vacations are a great match.

Marla Somersall is executive director of the P.E.I. Humane Society, one of the member groups of the P.E.I. Companion Animal Welfare Initiative (CAWI). Animal Talk is a monthly column in The Guardian produced by CAWI, the goal of which is to improve the welfare of owned and unowned companion animals on P.E.I. Other members of CAWI are SpayAid, Cat Action Team, P.E.I. Veterinary Medical Association, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and Forestry, P.E.I. 4-H and Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at AVC. For more information, see gov.pe.ca/agriculture/CAWI. Readers may also send questions related to the wellbeing of owned and unowned companion animals to ask-cawi@gmail.com

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