



Kennebec Valley Humane Society
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Media Release

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Kennebec Valley Humane Society urges residents to keep pets cool during hot weather

Authorities at the Kennebec Valley Humane Society (KVHS) in Augusta are urging local pet owners to keep their pets cool and comfortable during hot days. “The hot weather can pose many health risks for animals in our community,” says KVHS Executive Director, Hillary Roberts “our staff and volunteers want to make sure pet owners in our communities are aware of how potentially harmful hot weather can be for pets. We know we have a wonderful community of animal lovers that want to keep their pets safe, so our staff have put together some safety tips for residents and their pets during the summer months.”

Roberts says that the safety tips include:

- **Never leave your pets in a parked car.** On hot days the temperature in your car can rise to 120 degrees in just 10 minutes! This kind of heat can cause organ damage and lead to death in animals. If you see an animal in distress in a parked car in the heat contact the local animal control officer or law enforcement.
- **Provide plenty of water and shade.** If your pet spends a lot of time outside, make sure that they have protection from the heat and sun. Dog houses provide shade and shelter, but will not provide relief from the heat. Make sure inside or outside your pet has plenty of water.
- **Take shorter walks or limit exercise.** If it’s really hot outside, it’s best to walk your dog or allow pets to exercise outside in the early morning or evening. Also, remember that on very hot days the asphalt in pavement can get very hot and burn your pet’s paws.
- **If you think your pet is suffering from heat stroke, take action.** Signs of heat stroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, and unconsciousness. If you see initial signs, get your pet to a shaded or air conditioned area and try to lower their body temperature with ice packs or cold towels. As with any health emergency, contact your veterinarian.

For more information please contact Kennebec Valley Humane Society at (207) 626-3491 ext. 100 or visit www.pethavenlane.org.

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