

## HOT WEATHER HAZARDS

We are all ready for the pleasures warm weather brings. Gardening, walks in the park and just being outdoors are part of summer fun. Remaining properly hydrated while out in the sun is extremely important. Animals dehydrate faster than we do because they have few sweat glands and evaporate water via their whole surface and by panting.

**Dogs should never be left in the open sun longer than 30 minutes.** Dark-colored and larger breeds are more affected by heat than little waggers. Any dog found lying on its side, panting heavily with a glazed look and rapid heartbeat should be rushed to the animal clinic ASAP. Attempts to merely cool the animal may not be enough. Placing a cold pack on the neck where respiratory and vascular centers are located will help stabilize the pet while on its way to the hospital.

Our pets have a big fan club of creatures that like to cohabitate with them, including fleas and ticks. Allergies to flea bites in animals are similar to mosquito allergies in humans. The hidden risk is that up to six months later your pet may develop tapeworm. A variety of medicines are available from your vet to protect your pet. **Beware** of generic products. Many of them are ineffective or even fatal. The old adage, "You get what you pay for," becomes a hard lesson when you are faced with a high veterinary bill for emergency treatment or, worst of all, the death of a pet.

I hope my advice has educated you about warm-weather precautions and dangers. Let's all have an enjoyable summer season romping with our pets.