

# Seasonal Safety Tips for Dogs

1. **Cover the basics.** Secure an up-to-date tag on your pet's collar and make sure to use a leash when headed outdoors. It is important to have your pet microchipped. Be sure that your information is current with the National Registry.
2. **Be wary around water.** Not all dogs are natural swimmers, so watch your pet when you're near a pool, beach, or lake. Never let your pet walk on what appears to be a frozen lake or pond.
3. **Keep Cool.** Schedule walks in the early morning or evening; dog paws hate hot pavement. Stop periodically for fresh water breaks and find shady places for necessary panting breaks.
4. **Watch for warning signs.** Heat stroke is an issue for pets, too. Especially dogs with flatter faces, like Pugs & Bulldogs. Be on the lookout for early symptoms; excessive panting and drooling, bright red gums, weakness, and balance problems. If the condition worsens, pets may experience labored breathing, lethargy, and even seizures. You can cool down an overheated pet with cold water on towels and by offering ice chips or small bowls of water. In the winter, to prevent dehydration, be sure your pet's water supply doesn't freeze. Use a non-metal water dish to keep your pet's tongue from sticking.
1. **Safely see the sights.** Taking your pets for a ride? Never leave them inside the car, windows up or down, on hot days. Keep your dogs' head in the car while driving; inner ear damage, lung infections, foreign bodies in the eye and injury can happen when man's best friend sticks his head out of the window.
5. **Party with prudence.** Be wary of what your cats and dogs can get into when you celebrate. Chocolate, raisins, and onion can be bad for dogs and cats, and alcohol is a big no-no. If your dog feels anxious or fearful around fireworks or large crowds, keep them away.
6. **Protect against parasites.** Fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and more seem to be everywhere in the summer, so consult with your veterinarian on the best preventatives.
7. **When the temperature falls.** Keep cats indoors and shorten walks for dogs. Safe outdoor temps vary for pets by size and breed. Provide adequate shelter if your pet must be outside. Always make sure to slam your car door and honk your horn before starting your car. Stray/outdoor cats often seek warmth underneath car hoods.

