

### **Summertime Safety When Out & About**

Enjoying the outdoors with your dog is wonderful any time of year, and all the more so on balmy summer days. Hanging out in the backyard of a friend, hiking through parks or on trails, driving to the nearest open water—all innocent pastimes, right? Yes, provided you keep an eye out for summertime hazards that can turn a fun excursion into an emergency for your dog. Here are some common culprits:

**Sun burn.** Early and often is the human credo for sunscreen and that goes for dogs, too. Put sunscreen on any pink or light-colored parts of your dog's nose and ears, and if she is shorthaired or has light-colored fur, she may also need a thin shirt to protect her.

**Heatstroke.** When temperatures soar, give your dog access to shade and plenty of cool water. Keep activities to a minimum during the hottest hours and instead venture out during early mornings and after sunset. Never, ever leave your dog in a hot car, windows cracked or not. (If you see symptoms like heavy panting, drooling, vomiting, and disorientation, immediately get your dog to a cool place.)

**Fertilizer and antifreeze.** Playing on and rolling in grass are favorite activities of most dogs, but be sure the area hasn't recently been fertilized. Many components in fertilizer can be harmful to your dog, both to ingest and touch. As for antifreeze, overheated cars are more likely to leak this lethal liquid—and dogs unfortunately like the taste.

**Nasty critters.** Summer is also when fleas and ticks come out in force. Make sure your dog is up-to-date on her protection or keep up on natural preventive remedies.