



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA
July 6, 2010

Contact: Susanne Kogut
434-964-3323
director@caspca.org

Summer Safety Tips for Pets!

Charlottesville, Virginia: The Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is encouraging people to take special precautions to protect their pets during the summer months, and especially during the 4th of July celebrations, with the following Summer Safety Tips:

Keep your pets safe on July 4th: We may enjoy the July 4th festivities but fireworks can frighten our pets. The fear of fireworks may cause your dog or cat to escape from your yard. For many pets, it is best to keep them inside in a safe place during the July 4th celebrations. Also remember to make sure your pets are wearing an ID in case they do run off and contact and visit the SPCA anytime your pet goes missing.

Provide your animals with plenty of water, shade, and proper ventilation at all times or they can end up with heat stress or stroke, and possibly die.

Never leave your pet in the car even for a few minutes. The temperature in your car can rise over 100 degrees in a matter of minutes. Animals that are older, very young, overweight, or have heart and respiratory conditions are more likely to have problems from the heat.

Change the water for your pets more frequently, as the heat can breed bacteria, which can sicken your pet if you've left it out in the sun too long.

Do not overdo it with exercise in the heat. Keep walks to a gentle pace. If your pet is panting a lot or seems exhausted, it's time to stop.

Protect your pets from fleas and ticks with a good control product.

Watch for signs of heatstroke. Dogs can develop heatstroke fairly quickly. Signs of this are excessive panting, staring, anxious expression on the face, warm skin, refusal to obey commands by owner, vomiting, collapse and rapid heartbeat. If you suspect that your pet is suffering from this, lower the animal's body temperature by applying towels soaked in cool water to the hairless areas of the body and take your pet to the vet immediately.

If your pets are staying home when you vacation, properly instruct your pet-sitter and, if appropriate, your neighbors. If you are having someone come to your home to care for your pets, provide your pet-sitter with all vaccination and medical records. If an emergency occurs or your pet gets lost, medical history records are very important. Also inform your sitter that should your pet go missing, they should immediately contact the local SPCA or animal shelter to see if your pet has been found and, if not, to file a lost report. If appropriate you may want to inform your neighbors that someone will be caring for your pets. In Albemarle County, animal control officers have received an increased number of calls about pets being left without care, only to find out that the pets are being cared for by pet-sitters while the owner is out of town.

The mission of the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the lost, abandoned, and homeless animals of the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle and to increase the number of these animals being placed in appropriate, loving, and permanent homes through adoptions, foster care, and outreach, and to set a standard of excellence and leadership in shelter animal care, humane education, and progressive animal welfare programs. For more information about the SPCA, visit our website at www.caspca.org.

#####