



ANIMAL ANTICS

BEWARE THE HEAT!

With the hot weather finally here, we must be aware of the common problems dogs face in the summer:

Heatstroke

Heat stroke doesn't only happen when dogs are shut in cars! Be careful on hot days, especially with short nosed breeds, overweight pets or those with heart trouble. Avoid strenuous exercise when it's hot, provide plenty of fresh air and water and don't leave your pet in direct sunlight. Main symptoms include violent panting, excessive drooling, vomiting, red eyes and gums, collapse or unconsciousness. Wet your dog's coat with cold water, put your pet somewhere cool (use a fan). **Call a vet immediately.**

Snakebites

These tend to cause swelling and pain and will often be around the head and forelimbs. **Call a vet immediately.** You might not see the snake, but may hear your dog yelp. Adders are the only UK poisonous snake. If you witness a bite (identified by two puncture wounds) or your dog suffers an acute painful swelling or collapses on a walk, keep the dog as calm as possible, apply pressure above the bite to prevent the poison from circulating (if possible carry the dog) and **follow instructions from a vet.**

Bee & Wasp Stings

It's rare for a dog to be allergic to bee and wasp stings, but very painful directly after the event. The sting often occurs in or around the mouth/head or front feet and is seen as a rapid, soft, swelling. Bee stings are acidic and sting only once and may leave the sting in the dog, resembling a thick, dark, short hair with a tiny bit of flesh on the free end - remove with tweezers. Bathe with a mild alkaline such as bicarbonate of soda. Wasp stings are alkaline and withdraw their sting and move on to pastures new. Bathe with a dilute acid such as vinegar or lemon juice. To ease discomfort a cold flannel or ice cube can be held on the affected area. If your dog is biting or chewing at the wound try distracting them by food or play. However, if the dog is very distressed **call a vet for advice.**

Grass Seeds

After field walking, always check paws, eyes, ears etc. for grass seeds. Unattended, these can cause discomfort and infection. There are three areas to look out for. 1) In the ear or on the ear flap causing sudden violent shaking of the head during, or shortly after a walk. 2) Body. A developing sore leading to a small abscess. Look out for small holes in the skin that look wet and are not healing, especially between the toes which may cause lameness. 3) The eye. A seed may be lodged behind the third eyelid causing pain/discharge. Because of their shape, grass seeds act like a fish-hook and only move one way - inwards. They can penetrate intact skin and, if neglected, may migrate long distances within the body. Do not ignore it, and if unable to remove **call a vet for advice.**

Ticks

A parasite commonly hosted by cattle, deer, hedgehogs and sheep can be found on dogs, especially in the summer months. If you see a wart like lump (the size of a pea or bean) it needs to be removed before infection occurs requiring treatment. If unfamiliar with tick removal, **call a vet for advice.**

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