



Your Smart Dog The Dog Days of Summer August 2005

There's nothing more relaxing than vacation, no matter where it is. If you take your dog with you, and if your vacation is near a body of water, this newsletter will be right up your alley (or should I say creek?!)

Whether your dog is a seasoned pro at the beach or you'll be introducing your dog to the water for the very first time, here are some tips and some cautions that you should be aware of before you head off on your vacation.

1. Gradually introduce your dog to the water in a fun way, without force. **Pushing them in isn't a good idea** – it will only teach your dog that you are not trustworthy and it could make them fearful of the water. [Click here](#) for more information on how to introduce your dog to the water for the first time.
2. Limit their play in the water, particularly if they are unaccustomed to so much activity. Dogs don't stop when they are tired and could become exhausted if you don't step in and regulate their activity.
3. Don't let them drink salt water. They don't know that the ocean water will lead to diarrhea later, but now you do! **Have plenty of fresh cold water on hand** for your pooch so he can re-hydrate himself.

4. **Don't forget about your dog's paws.** If you're at the beach, the sand is hot and can quickly burn your dog's pads. If you're at a lake or river, there is a lot of debris (read: broken glass, soda cans, etc.) at the bottom that could easily cut your dog's pads.

Dogs don't stop when they are tired and could easily drown from exhaustion if you don't step in and regulate their activity.

5. If you'll be on a boat – whether it's a speedboat or rowboat – **a life preserver is a must** for your dog. It's far too easy for your dog to fall overboard.
6. If you're visiting the river or the ocean, be aware of currents and undertow. They're quick and they're strong and will **take your dog out faster than you think.**
7. Before you throw the stick in for your dog to retrieve, **figure out how and where your dog can get out of the water.** If you're on a boat, you might have to get in the water with your dog to help boost him out. If you're on a riverbank, make sure there isn't any debris or steep banks that may make it



difficult for your dog to get back out of the water.

8. Dogs can get sunburned just like people. Be careful to keep them out of the sun as much as possible. Their noses are particularly prone to sunburn, as are any other areas that are exposed to the sun's rays.
9. **Dogs don't sweat** – they only lose heat through panting and through their paws – be mindful of this and don't subject your dog to strenuous exercise (or fun and games) in the mid-day heat.
10. Dogs that are brachycephalic (short-faced), such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Boston Terriers, etc., have an especially hard time in the heat because they do not pant as efficiently as other, longer-faced dogs. **Keep your brachycephalic dog inside with air-conditioning** – they'll appreciate it!
11. Visit the [AKC](http://www.akc.org) website for more summertime tips for you and your dog.

Happy Summer!
Laurie Luck
Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT)
Smart Dog University, LLC
Box 1111
Mount Airy, MD 21771
(240) 848-3468
laurie@smartdoguniversity.com

<http://www.SmartDogUniversity.com>

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