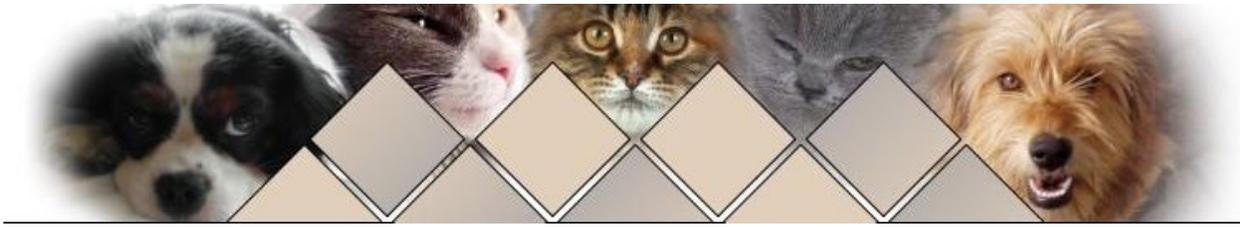


**The Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia presents:
Heat and Summer Fun Related Tips for Pet Owners**

1. Never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle, even with the window open. Use the drive-thru when possible, bring a friend to sit with your pet, shop at pet friendly stores, or simply leave your pet at home where it is cool and safe.
2. Visit the groomer (depending on your pet's breed) to help prevent overheating.
3. Certain factors can play a role in your pet's health such as age or obesity. Some breeds of cats and dogs with flat shaped noses cannot pant as well as other breeds.
4. Always be careful of where you pet swims or drinks water. Water can cause zoonotic diseases such as Giardia. Also, some lakes are prone to algae blooms that can be hazardous to your pets. If you would not swim there, neither should your pet.
5. Protect your pets from the sun's rays and keep them hydrated. Always have plenty of fresh water available. Chances are if you are thirsty on a hot day, your pets are too.
6. Walk your pet early in the morning, or later in afternoon/evening when it has cooled off.
7. Did you know cats and dogs sweat through their paws?
8. Do not let playful pets overexert themselves in the heat.
9. Asphalt can be harmful on hot days. If it is too hot for bare feet, it is too hot for bare paws.
10. Not all dogs can swim, so having your pet wear a life jacket is always recommended. Most life jackets come with a handle that makes puling your pet out of the water easier to do.
11. Have fun outside but remember to have pet waste bags available to clean up after your pet.
12. Make sure to check screens on doors and windows to ensure they are safe and escape proof.
13. Remember to microchip your pet and make sure it is wearing a collar with proper ID tags and contact information. Microchipping is an inexpensive way to ensure your pet is returned.
14. Signs of Heat STROKE/Exhaustion in pets are excessive panting, increased heart rate, nausea/vomiting, discolored gums, and mobility problems. Seek veterinary attention immediately if you see an animal in distress. Your veterinarian is always your pet's best source of information when it come to the well-being of your pet.





About the Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia (DARTNS)

We are a charitable organization, working in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross to set up and run emergency shelters, for animals affected by man-made and natural disasters. With the Red Cross being one of the leading organizations when it comes to providing humanitarian support in times of disaster, it seems like a natural fit that we now work together. People love their pets and would not want to leave them behind. Now, you can evacuate with your pet, and you both have a safe place to go.

Working with a great group of volunteers, we provide information to the public on emergency preparedness by attending community events, giving educational presentations, and promoting items like our 'Life Meter for Pets' that helps raise awareness about leaving your pets in vehicles in hot weather.

Remember, **Emergency Preparedness** starts with you.

Make sure your family has an emergency kit with enough supplies to sustain your family and pets for at least 72 hours. If you are unsure of what should be in your kit, a good resource is to contact your Canadian Red Cross or visit <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/>. The Disaster Animal Response Team (www.dartns.org) can provide you with an emergency planning checklist in case a disaster strikes, or you are forced to evacuate with your pets.

Also, find out what your community/municipality is doing when it comes to emergency preparedness.

In Hurricane Katrina, many lives, property, and animals were lost due to a number of factors. The Disaster Animal Response Team, working in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross is able to provide emergency animal sheltering in the event a disaster strikes.

For more information about DARTNS please visit our website: www.dartns.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Catherine Stevens, Communications Director, DARTNS
Mobile Number: 902-233-4089
Email: information@dartns.org

