

The Great Outdoors with Man's Best Friend



Summer is just around the corner and what better time than now to start getting ready to enjoy the great outdoors with your four legged friend after a long winter! Here are a few tips on enjoying some fresh air and trails with your furry family member:

1. Let your dog familiarize himself with your camping gear. Put up the tent in the back yard, use flashlights or headlamps and give plenty of treats for a reward.
2. Have your annual veterinary exam to make sure your pet's healthy and ready to hit the trail. Carry copies of his vaccination records/microchip information and have your phone number on Fido's ID tag.
3. Pack a canine first aid kit and have the phone numbers/addresses of the 3 nearest veterinary clinics to you.
4. Add your dogs camping supplies to the camp checklist to ensure you don't forget anything! Leash, food, portable water/food bowls, first aid kit, blanket, chew toys etc.
5. Make sure that your dog is welcome at the campground. Not all campgrounds are pet friendly, so it's a good idea to call ahead.
6. Set up camp in an area with plenty of shade and bring a leash and a tie-out so your dog remains safely at your campground.
7. Always have fresh/clean water available.
8. Clean up after your dog to make sure that the campground stays clean and pet-friendly.
9. Refresh your dog's obedience training: come, sit, stay, leave it and down should be mastered to keep your dog and wildlife safe.

Lastly: Have fun, relax and enjoy the great outdoors with your four legged family member!



SUMMER!!

Sun, shorts, cook-outs, camping!! HOORAY!!

SUMMER!!

Bugs – mosquitoes, ticks, fleas!! BOO!!

How and why should we protect our pets from these “bugs” and the harmful, sometimes life-threatening diseases they carry?

MOSQUITOES have been around a long time – almost 79 million years. Mosquitoes have four life stages – three mostly stick to the water. Mosquitoes love to spread disease – West Nile, Zika, and Heartworm!!! Heartworms cause disease by clogging the heart and its major vessels,



which in turn can affect the lungs, liver, and kidneys. Signs of heartworm disease can vary– cough, shortness of breath, weakness, exercise intolerance, but many animals won't show any signs. Simple blood tests can diagnose heartworm disease but

prevention is the best way to help your pets from being infected.

TICKS! These blood-sucking arthropods and the disease they carry are on the rise, especially Lyme disease. Ticks can be found year-round and even live indoors. Year-round prevention and the Lyme vaccine for dogs can help protect your pets.

FLEAS! These little buggers can carry disease and other parasites, like tapeworms. Not only does it drive your pet nuts with itching, they can potentially lead to life-threatening anemia! 95% of fleas in your house aren't on your pet – fleas live in your carpet, bedding, floorboards, and the soil in your yard.

Tips for decreasing the prevalence of these bugs include:

1. Get rid of any standing water in your yard – mosquitoes love it!
2. Mow, rake, and remove organic debris from flower beds and bushes – fleas love this environment.
3. Do tick checks on your pet – the face and ears are favorite places!
4. AND, OF COURSE, PLEASE ASK OUR STAFF ABOUT YEAR-ROUND PREVENTIVES, VACCINES, AND BLOOD SCREENING FOR BOTH YOUR DOGS AND CATS. IT CAN BE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH IN SOME CASES.

