



Summer Safety Tips

From Sunscreen (Yes!) to Lifejackets: Summer Safety Tips for our Cavaliers

The “dog days” of summer are already upon us!

Most of us already know the summer drill with our pups--like never leaving your Cavalier(s) in a parked car. Interior auto temperatures rise dramatically in a very short period of time – upwards of 20+ degrees in less than ten minutes. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause irreversible organ damage and even death.

We all know that Cavaliers are the “coolest” pups around, and it’s important to keep your Cavs cool *inside and out* on really hot days. Walking our Cavs early in the morning (or late in the evening) can prove to be one of the best ways of controlling overexposure to summer heat. The pavement (especially asphalt) can heat up very quickly and can actually burn the bottoms of your pup’s pads – try to walk on the grass whenever possible.

In addition to having lots of cold fresh water on hand, some “DIY” cooling ideas include filling an old tube sock with ice cubes and loosely wrapping it around your pup’s neck – or filling a large Zip-Loc™ bag with ice chips and putting it into an old pillow case for your Cavalier(s) to lounge on. You can also invest in a cooling wrap, vest, or mat which can be soaked in cold water, or even frozen to last longer. [Heat stroke](#) can develop quickly and can be deadly. Be watchful for symptoms like heavy panting, glazed eyes, excessive thirst, and profuse salivation or vomiting.

Did you know that skin cancer is the second leading type of cancer affecting dogs? Just like us, our Cavaliers need protection against direct or prolonged sun exposure. One important difference.....you should ***not*** use sunscreen products intended for humans. As of this newsletter, there is only one FDA approved sunscreen product for dogs called [Epi-Pet Sun Protector](#). If you and your Cavalier(s) are outside in the sun on a regular basis, it might be worthwhile to check this product out – or check with your vet for other protection alternatives.

A visit to your local dog beach can be a great way to take a break from the heat, but not all dogs inherently know how to swim. If you are unsure about your Cavalier’s ability to “catch a wave”, consider outfitting them with a canine lifejacket—especially if you are out in a boat. Designed to keep their heads above the water, these jackets usually have a handle--making it easier to grab and lift your pup out of the water.

If you frequent large public dog parks or beaches during the warmer months, be aware that excessive heat can cause unpredictable behavior in some breeds. Keep a safe distance from unknown dogs (and owners) as your circumstances can change in a split second!

Feel free to share these ideas with your friends and families. We would love to hear other safety suggestions from you—please consider sharing your tips on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/RescueACavalier> -- enjoy the rest of the summer and remember, the Jingle Pawty is just a tail wag away!

buying online?

Make a purchase through amazon.com and help us achieve our fundraising goals

fundinco.org