

Get Ready for Summer Checklist



- Give your dog access to cool, fresh water 24 hours a day, and a shady spot to rest in.
- Securely fence your pool area, and consider adding a ramp as an emergency exit.
- Hide any chemicals that could be toxic on a high shelf or in a secure cabinet. Chemicals that can harm your dog include:
 - Pesticides
 - Radiator and other car fluids
 - Herbicides
 - Swimming pool cleaner
 - Fertilizers
 - Household glues and solvents
- Stay current on heartworm and flea and tick preventives. Visit your veterinarian for a pre-summer heartworm checkup.
- Install springs on all gates to reduce the chance of your dog slipping out of the yard.
- Keep ID tags up-to-date with your contact information in case your dog escapes.
- Take walks in the early mornings or evenings when the sun's heat is less intense. Avoid strenuous exercise on hot days.



- Keep your dog's coat clean and mat-free, but don't shave it. The coat provides insulation and works best when tangle-free.
- After a swim in a pool, lake, or ocean, rinse your dog off with fresh water so his coat stays clean.
- Accidents can happen, so keep your veterinarian's phone number close at hand and available to all family members.

For more summer safety tips for your dog, check out the July 2007 issue of DOG FANCY.