

Enjoy the sun, but . . .

Protect Pets from Summer Heat

Summer is just around the corner and soon temperatures will reach into the 90's. Cars are potential death traps during hot summer months because inside temperatures can quickly climb to more than 120°F on even an overcast sunny day.

Because of this, it is best to leave your pet at home while running errands during hot weather. If you absolutely must leave your pet in a car, do the following:

1. Open windows and vents as wide as possible without providing an escape route; or put your pet in a well ventilated cage inside the car and open the windows fully
2. Provide fresh water
3. Check the car every 10 minutes

If your pet is panting, has a staring or anxious expression, does not obey commands, has warm, dry skin and a high fever, rapid heartbeat, or is vomiting, lower the

body temperature quickly with cool, not cold, water either by immersion or by spraying thoroughly with a garden hose. Then call us immediately.



If your pet lives outdoors, make sure there is adequate shelter for protection from the mid-day sun and heat. Outdoor kennels should be well ventilated and in a shaded area. There should always be some shade for the pet to get out of the sun.

Also, make sure there is plenty of fresh drinking water available to your pet. The bowl should be placed in a shaded area where it is not heated by the sun.

Exercise is important, but overexertion during hot weather commonly causes heat stress. Avoid excessive exercise during hot days.

Keep your pet well groomed. Long hair and mats may need to be clipped to help cool your pet.

Did you know?

- Fleas can jump, on average, 13 inches horizontally and seven inches vertically.
- There are more than 2,000 species and sub-species of fleas.



Briefly:

Have you heard our new on-hold messages. While we hope you haven't had to hold long, please let us know what you think.

We're always open to hear your thoughts and suggestions regarding our services.

Drop us a note or give a call any time.



Show Your Pet How Much You Love It With Flea Control!

Every pet will feel more loved if treated to a flea free summer. FDA investigations into over-the-counter spot on products make our safe products even more appealing.

We have options for every situation. Don't let fleas get the jump on your pet, stop by today and our staff can tell you about the differences between Comfortis, Revolution, Advantage and Advantage Multi.

We can also let you know about all the money saving promotions available to help protect your pocketbook while loving your pet.





Fair Experience Brings Urban & Rural Together

Each year one doctor from Kulshan Veterinary Hospital writes an article on preparing your 4-H and FFA animal for the fair. This year marks a bit of a change as we invite exhibitors and readers to visit the Kulshan website:

<http://www.kulshanvet.com>

Once there, look for our link “Preparing for the Fair” to find more information on recommendations and requirements.

In our space here, we elect to ponder the changing link between the fair exhibitor and the fair-going public.

For those of us that have grown up in an agricultural community, the fair is an annual tradition of local businesses exhibiting and promoting their products and services. It is also the center of competitive showing of livestock and farm products by youth and adults. 4-H and FFA livestock projects are the core of the youth competition and are central to the essence of the fair experience.

Decades of tradition and precedents exist for the event we call “The Fair”. For the youth exhibitor, these include picking and registering their project animal, care and feeding of their animal and gaining knowledge of the rules of the competition and techniques of showmanship.

Those in 4-H and FFA are mindful of their respective pledges and mottos: In 4-H they pledge: “*my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, and my Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world*”; while those in FFA follow their twelve short words by which to live: “*Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve*”.

At the fair, exhibitors focused on their animals, on stall duties, on camaraderie and on the competition of showing their animals. Whatcom County veterinarians volunteer their services to inspect all incoming livestock projects to evalu-

ate compliance with regulatory standards and to aid in the prevention of transmission of contagious diseases. The traditional fair going public had strong links to agriculture, friends and family.

The change in this country and in this county to urbanization and industrialization, including agriculture, has effected changes that are felt throughout our lives including even our local fair. In the past 15 years we have had our awareness to the link between animals and public health challenged at many levels. An outbreak in 1993 of E.coli O157:H7, the possibility of BSE in our food supply and the concern for the potential of foot and mouth disease in our national herds of cattle, sheep, goats and swine.

Public health and biosecurity are now everyday aspects of the care we give the animals. The individual animal needs protection from the heartaches like those created by Malignant Catarrhal Fever this past show season; our national herd and our food supply needs protection and programs like the National and State Animal Identification are part of that support system; the public needs to trust their food supply and the caretakers of that supply.

The fair is one of the close links between urban and agricultural America. While our youth are involved in 4-H and FFA projects for all the traditional reasons, they are also examples of animal agriculture to our urban public. In the past the care of animals was dictated by husbandry and showmanship, today those reasons continue, but the public will also have their expectations for the care and welfare of animals at the fair.

Those of us that are directly involved in animal agriculture must realize it is not the same old fair. We must be aware and supportive of the changes needed to maintain public confidence in the care given to animals and the safety of their food supply. We must help our youth recognize and effectively convey those changes to the fair-going public.

Recommendations

Equine: We recommend vaccinating all horses with an Influenza/Rhinopneumonitis booster at least two weeks prior to the fair. If you forget and only have one week, we recommend using Flu-Avert, which is an intranasal vaccine.

Bovine: All cows and heifers four months of age and older must be vaccinated for Brucellosis (Bangs vaccine). We also recommend vaccinating all cattle with an IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV combination at least two weeks before the fair. The modified live vaccines offer the best protection but cannot be used in pregnant animals. Use a killed vaccine in the pregnant animals.

Ovine and Caprine: Prior to arrival at the fair all sheep and goats need to be identified with an official ear tag, microchip, or tattoo from the USDA National Scrapie Eradication Program (For information call 1-866-873-2824). We also recommend vaccinating with Clostridium perfringens type C and D and Tetanus at least two weeks prior the fair.

Porcine: We recommend vaccinating all pigs with a Bordetella, Erysipelothrix, and Pasturella vaccine at least two weeks prior to the fair.