**Summer Tips**

Summer has finally arrived, and while this may be the perfect time of year to get outside and spend some quality time with your furry friends it’s also important to remember that heat can have negative effects on your dog’s health.

While it may be tempting to bring your dog in the car with you as you run errands, remember to never ever leave your dog in a parked car. Even with windows slightly open, a car parked in the shade on a 30-degree day can heat up to 39 degrees in 10 minutes. In 30 minutes, the temperature will hit 49 degrees, and on hotter days it will go even higher. A dog can only withstand these temperatures for a very short time before suffering irreversible brain damage and death.

Care must also be taken whilst exercising your dog in the heat. They are much more susceptible to heatstroke than we are, especially older dogs, overweight dogs, certain breeds such as bulldogs and pugs, and dogs with heart or lung problems. Dogs cannot sweat and rely on panting to get rid of excess heat, which is not as effective as sweating, so don’t push your dog to exercise on hot or humid days. A common situation can be when the grandchildren keep throwing a ball for your dog to retrieve until it is almost on the point of collapse.

Hot pavement or hot sand at the beach, which we may not notice with our shoes on, may cause your dog’s paw pads to become burnt. If it’s too hot for you to walk on in bare feet – then it’s too hot for your dog.

Remember these hidden dangers this summer and ensure your pet always has access to fresh water and shade, and if you follow these simple rules you can enjoy the summer together safely.