



# Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

July 15, 2013

## Summer Precautions: *Avoiding Heat Stroke*

Summer heat is here again and extra precautions are in order for our pets. Heat stroke is a condition which occurs when the internal body temperature gets very high (105-110 degrees). Dogs dissipate heat through their skin and by panting but when this is not enough the internal body temperature rises and can become life threatening very quickly.

Puppies, older or obese pets, short-faced breeds, and animals with certain medical conditions are at greater risk.

Signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke are: Excessive panting, weakness and lethargy, red gums, and collapse and coma or death.

If you suspect your dog may have heat stroke, you can take their body temperature rectally. Normal ranges from 100-102.5. If your dog's temperature is 105 or greater they are at great risk. Remove them from the heat and place cool wet towels over them or use a cool water bath. Do not use ice. Call us immediately after you do this and bring them in to be seen.

Never leave a pet in a car, even with the windows partially down. Avoid exercise in the hottest part of the day. And make sure that they have plenty of shade and cool water. It is best to try and avoid this very dangerous event as it progresses so quickly and can so quickly lead to a life threatening challenge.



## *Did You Know?*

Each year we get reports of what conditions are the most common for veterinarians to see in their practices. This year the 2012 report shows that allergic skin disease was the most common (displacing ear infections) in dogs

Here's a list of what's common:

### Dogs:

- 1) Allergic dermatitis
- 2) Ear infection
- 3) Skin infections
- 4) Benign tumors
- 5) Stomach ailments
- 6) Arthritis
- 7) Intestinal problems
- 8) Bladder or urinary infection
- 9) Dental disease/ periodontitis
- 10) Trauma / soft tissue injury

### Cats:

- 1) Bladder problems / FLUTD
- 2) Dental disease/ periodontitis
- 3) Thyroid disease
- 4) Kidney disease
- 5) Stomach ailments
- 6) Diabetes
- 7) Intestinal problems
- 8) Bladder infection
- 9) Cancer: Lymphoma
- 10) Upper respiratory infection

We see a wide array of problems at Arbor including all of the above. Some are age related but many are not. Our staff of 23 professionals works hard to keep all of your critters healthy, and it is our genuine pleasure to do so!

## Doctors corner:

### *Chicken Jerky Treat Dangers*

It has become very common for dog and cat owners to provide treats for their beloved pets. There are many safe treats for pets but there have also been numerous reports of tainted treats causing illness and death in pets.

Beginning in 2007 reports of chicken jerky treats imported from China came under scrutiny. The FDA, Veterinary Laboratory Response Network, and several other labs did extensive testing but were unable to determine a contaminant or microbial agent that was causing the illnesses seen.

To date over 3,200 dogs have become ill from eating tainted jerky treats and 501 dogs have died. Nine cat reports have been filed with one death. The illnesses range from intestinal to liver or kidney problems and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association reports similar findings in Canada.

**I believe there are probably many more cases unreported.** The FDA did not and has not issued a recall although several companies including Purina and Del Monte have voluntarily recalled their products which were suspected in the illnesses. Our FDA went to China and inspected five facilities making the treats, but were not allowed to take samples and one plant was found to be falsifying records. All of this should be of great health concern to pet owners.

Pet food imports from China have increased 8,500 % (yes!) since 2003 and it is obvious that our ability to inspect and regulate these imports is lacking. While looking for the problem, New York's Ag agency recently found four antibiotics in Chinese imported pet products which were not the cause but indicate what China is exporting to us—tainted products! My strong advice is—Know where your pets treats come from and **Do not feed your pet anything imported from China!!!**