



## Social Media Suggested Wording

*This Summer, watch out for these*

# cat hazards

### Out and about

 **Hot weather**

**Danger:** Cats love sunbathing but be careful they don't overheat themselves in the middle of the day or bask themselves in a greenhouse, conservatory or car by accident. Heat stroke can be fatal and sunburn is also a risk.

**How to avoid:** Keep cats cool by turning on a fan, providing cool drinking water and creating a shaded retreat indoors and outdoors.

 **Blue-green algae**

**Danger:** This bacteria forms on top of lakes and ponds but often can't be seen with the naked eye. It is most common during warm, dry spells and even swallowing a few mouthfuls can be fatal.

**How to avoid:** Try to keep your cat away from water that may contain blue-green algae as the wind often blows poisonous blooms to the edges.

 **Toads**

**Danger:** Cats who chase jumpy toads may try to lick them. Toads respond by releasing poisonous secretions from glands on their skin. This can be lethal if not treated immediately.

**How to avoid:** If you live in an area where toads are common, keep a close eye on potential water sources for your cat as there may be toads hiding in them.

 **Fish Hooks**

**Danger:** Cats are often tempted to swallow the shiny lure and tinsel ball attached to fish hooks. These can cause tummy issues if swallowed to the mouth, stomach or paws.

**How to avoid:** Fish hooks are often discarded by fishermen, so be on your guard if you live in an area where fishing is popular.

### Home and garden

 **Open windows**


**Danger:** Cats are curious animals and may find an open window too tempting to ignore. Be careful if you live in a high-rise flat or own a two-story house.

**How to avoid:** Aside from keeping upstairs windows closed, you could try using netting, a screen or installing a child safety device that limits how far they can open.

 **Antihistamines**

**Danger:** If your cat swallows a large number of antihistamines it's likely to lead to vomiting, lethargy, incoordination, sedation and tremors.

**How to avoid:** Always keep drugs and medicines well out of reach.

 **Luminous necklaces**

**Danger:** Popular during music festival season, these contain luminescent chemicals which are attractive to cats. If swallowed, the liquid inside can cause drooling, vomiting and stomach pain.

**How to avoid:** Keep well out of reach and carefully dispose of any you've used.

 **Slug & snail pellets**

**Danger:** Tiny pellets used to control slugs and snails can cause severe poisoning in cats within an hour of being swallowed.

**How to avoid:** Avoid any products containing a substance called metaldehyde and water any pellets you do use sporadically.

 **Plants & flowers**

**Danger:** Several flowers and plants that are popular in the summer are potentially toxic to cats, including lilies, poppies, dandelions, perennials, hydrangeas, crocuses, tulips, gladioli and pansies.

**How to avoid:** Read up on which plants are toxic and avoid buying them. Instead, opt for cat-friendly plants.

### Keeping Your Cat Safe from Summer Hazards

 Summer is full of hidden threats for curious cats—heat, pests, and toxic plants are just the beginning. Keep your cat safe by reading this infographic from our out-of-hours partner, Vets Now.

# This Summer, watch out for these dog hazards

## Out and about



### Hot weather

**Danger:** Cats have a reputation for being cool, but they don't tolerate the heat as well as dogs do. They can overheat in a greenhouse, conservatory or car by accident. Heat stroke can be fatal and serious under a hot.

**How to avoid:** Never leave your dog in a car, even for a few minutes. If you must leave your dog in a car, park in the shade and use a sunshade to keep the car cool.



### Pavements & roads

**Danger:** Pavements and roads can reach temperatures of 50°C (122°F) on sunny days. This is enough to severely burn a dog's paw pads within a matter of minutes.

**How to avoid:** Avoid hot pavement and roads. If you must walk your dog, choose a route that avoids these areas.



### Blue-green algae

**Danger:** This bacteria forms part of cyanobacteria and is often found in water bodies. It is most common during warm, dry periods when the water is low and the algae is exposed.

**How to avoid:** Try to keep your dog away from water that may contain blue-green algae. If the water is low, avoid letting your dog drink from it.



### Toads

**Danger:** Cats and some small dogs may try to lick toads. Toads are poisonous and can cause serious illness if ingested.

**How to avoid:** If you live in an area where toads are common, avoid letting your dog drink from or lick toads.

## Home and garden



### Ticks

**Danger:** Ticks are more prevalent in the summer months, and are common in long grass. They are dangerous as they can spread disease and cause severe allergic reactions and infections.

**How to avoid:** Check your dog for ticks after every walk. Remove any ticks found as soon as possible. Use a monthly tick prevention programme and try to avoid your dog's exposure to ticks.



### Bee & wasp stings

**Danger:** Some dogs can be allergic to bee and wasp stings, which can become very serious. Although many of the stings are not serious, they can be dangerous if the dog is allergic to them.

**How to avoid:** Avoid letting your dog roam freely in the garden, especially during the summer months when bees and wasps are most active. Monitor for signs of allergic reactions, which include swelling, vomiting or difficulty breathing. If your dog has a severe allergic reaction, call your vet immediately.



### Barbecues

**Danger:** Smoking meats and other food on a barbecue can be dangerous if your dog is allergic to the smoke. Dogs may also get sick from the smoke if they are not used to it.

**How to avoid:** Ensure the garden is secure and your dog is not allowed to roam freely in the garden. Don't use the BBQ unless you are sure it is safe to use. If you are unsure, call your vet for advice.

## Keeping Your Dog Safe from Summer Hazards



What summer dangers should dog owners be aware of? Our out-of-hours partner Vets Now have created this infographic giving the lowdown on what to keep out of your dog's reach to avoid any emergencies.