

## Calling all dog owners

If you'd rather avoid a trip to one of our out-of-hours pet emergency clinics or 24/7 hospitals this summer then beware of these:

# 15 summer dangers that could make your dog ill

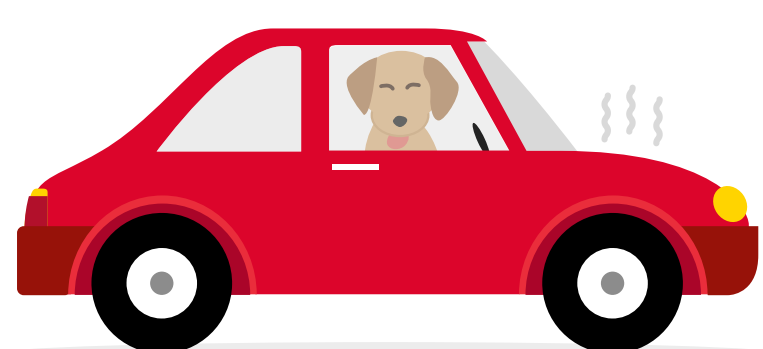
## OUT AND ABOUT

### 1.

#### Hot Weather

**Danger:** Exercising your dog too much or leaving them in the car, conservatory or an enclosed space after a sudden rise in temperature can lead to potentially fatal heat stroke.

**How to avoid:** Never walk your dog during the hottest parts of the day, and never leave them in a confined space for any length of time.



### 2.

#### Pavements and Roads

**Danger:** Studies show asphalt can reach temperatures of 52C (125F) on warm days. This is enough to severely burn a dog's paws within a matter of minutes.

**How to avoid:** Place the back of your hand on the surface for seven seconds and if you struggle to hold it down, it's too hot to walk your dog.

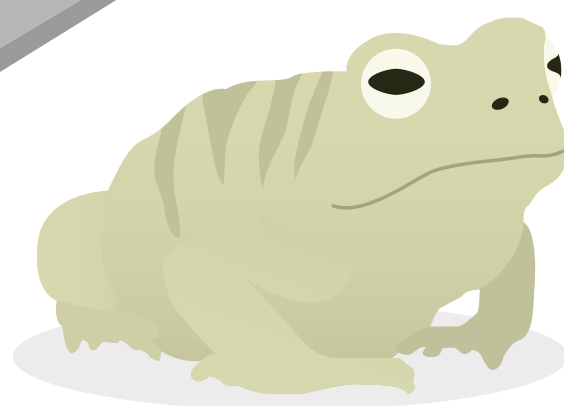


### 4.

#### Toads

**Danger:** Dogs who come across toads will often try to lick, bite or pick them up. Toads respond by releasing poisonous venom from glands on their skin. This can be lethal if not treated immediately.

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

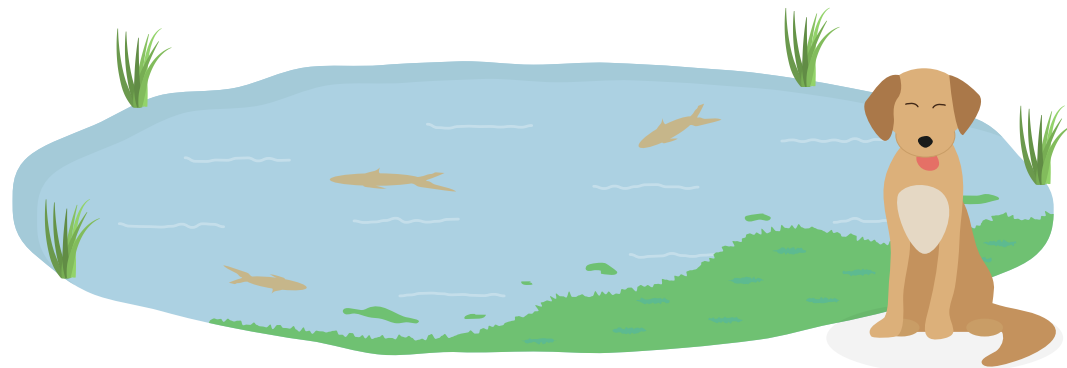


### 3.

#### Blue-Green Algae

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

**How to avoid:** Don't let your dog near water that may contain blue-green algae as the wind often blows blooms to the edges.



## AT THE SEASIDE



### 5.

#### Sand

**Danger:** Dogs often ingest sand by accident through digging or repeatedly picking up sandy balls and toys. It can cause a blockage in the intestine, which is called sand impaction.

**How to avoid:** Limit games of fetch on the beach and make sure you have plenty of fresh water on hand to keep your dog hydrated.



### 6.

#### Palm Oil

**Danger:** Palm oil is often washed up on the shoreline in solid nuggets and can cause vomiting and diarrhoea when swallowed. This may lead to dehydration and possibly even pancreatitis.

**How to avoid:** If you see your dog eating a hard, white, chalky substance that smells a little like diesel, stop them immediately.



### 7.

#### Salt Water

**Danger:** Dog who swim in the sea may inadvertently drink a lot of salt water. This can cause vomiting and, in more serious cases, fits, kidney failure and even death.

**How to avoid:** If at the beach, limit how long you allow your dog to swim and make sure you have plenty of fresh water on hand to give them afterwards.



### 8.

#### Fish Hooks

**Danger:** Dogs are often tempted to swallow the shiny lure and tasty bait that's attached to fish hooks. But these can cause nasty injuries if embedded in the mouth, stomach or paws.

**How to avoid:** Fish hooks are often discarded by inconsiderate fishermen so be on your guard in areas where fishing is popular.



## IN THE GARDEN



### 9.

#### Plants and Flowers

**Danger:** Several flowers and plants that are popular in the summer are potentially toxic to dogs, including poppies, clematis, peony, foxglove, geranium, chrysanthemum, oleander and yew.

**How to avoid:** If you're not sure whether your plants are safe, keep a close eye on your dog in the garden and around house plants.



### 10.

#### Slug and Snail Pellets

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

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



### 11.

#### Barbecues

**Danger:** In the summer, barbecue-related incidents — such as swallowing kebab skewers, eating cooked bones, food poisoning, and burn injuries — account for a surprisingly large number of admissions to our clinics.

**How to avoid:** Always keep raw and cooked barbecue food out of reach and make sure your dog is under supervision once the barbecue has been lit.



### 12.

#### Compost and Cocoa Mulch

**Danger:** Used to fertilise gardens, these are both potentially lethal for dogs. Compost is full of highly toxic mould while cocoa mulch contains poisonous theobromine.

**How to avoid:** Make sure compost bins are kept well out of reach and only ever use cocoa mulch sparingly, if at all.



## COMMON POISONS

### 13.

#### Ant Killer

**Danger:** Like slug and snail pellets, ant powders, baits and gels that contain chemicals that are highly toxic to dogs.

**How to avoid:** If the label states the product is toxic to animals, avoid, and opt for a pet-friendly insecticide instead.



### 14.

#### Rat Poison

**Danger:** Rodenticide is designed to taste nice to rats but, unfortunately, dogs like it for the same reason. Some types can cause severe internal bleeding as well as vomiting, fits and changes in body temperature.

**How to avoid:** If you have a serious vermin problem, opt for a pet-friendly option to get rid of it.



### 15.

#### Weed Killer

**Danger:** Many of the herbicides gardeners use to kill weeds and unwanted plants are dangerous if swallowed, licked or even brushed against.

**How to avoid:** Read the instructions carefully and don't use if there's a potential risk.



## RISK RATINGS EXPLAINED

- 1 Monitor your dog carefully and if you suspect a change in condition seek advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital
- 2-3 If you suspect your dog has consumed any of the items listed seek urgent advice from your vet or, out of hours, contact your nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital
- 4-5 Contact your vet immediately or, out of hours, call your nearest Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital as your dog may require urgent emergency treatment

## WHY DO SOME DOGS EAT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING?

- They are natural scavengers
- They explore with their mouths
- Like humans, they eat when they're bored
- They may have a medical condition such as diabetes
- Constant begging may be a learned behaviour
- They may not be getting enough nutritious dog food
- For dental reasons like teething