

This Summer, watch out for these dog hazards

Out and about



Hot weather

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

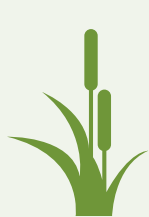
How to avoid: Keep cats cool by turning on a fan, providing cool drinking water and creating a shaded retreat indoors and outdoors.



Pavements & roads

Danger: Studies show asphalt can reach temperatures of 52°C (125°F) 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.



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.

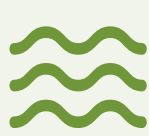
How to avoid: Try to keep your cat away from water that may contain blue-green algae as the wind often blows poisonous blooms to the edges.



Toads

Danger: Cats who come across toads may try to lick them. 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 an area where toads are common, keep a close eye on potential water sources for your cat as there may be toads living in them.



Drowning

Danger: Whilst many dogs are great swimmers, some aren't able to swim or paddle and therefore at risk of panicking and drowning if they accidentally fall into water from a boat or at a pool.

How to avoid: Never leave pets unattended by the beach or pool and if you are on water use a pet floating device.

Home and garden



Ticks

Danger: Ticks are more prevalent in the summer months and are commonly found in long grass. They are dangerous as they can spread diseases such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis.

How to avoid: Check your pet for ticks each day and remove any you find straight away. Use a monthly tick prevention programme and try to avoid your dog's exposure to them.



Bee & wasp stings

Danger: Some pets can be curious around wasps and bees resulting in a nasty sting on their paw or mouth which can become sore and swollen. Although many of the stings won't be serious, if your pet is allergic and swelling occurs it can affect their breathing.

How to avoid: Look out for signs that they've been stung which can include swelling, licking, crying and drooling. Use a cold compress or ice pack to soothe the areas and help any swelling. Monitor for signs of an allergic reaction, which includes swelling, collapsing or a difficulty with their breathing and call your vet if this occurs.



Barbecues

Danger: Tempting treats and hot equipment can be a danger to pets when you're enjoying an outdoor BBQ. Pets may try to jump onto the BBQ if they smell something tempting, and cause themselves burns. Also, certain foods such as corn on the cob, kebabs and bones are really dangerous for dogs.

How to avoid: Ensure the garden is secure and your pet has their own quiet place away from the BBQ/party. Don't ever leave the BBQ unattended and keep food out of reach. Ensure any leftovers are disposed of safely.



Compost & cocoa mulch

Danger: Used to fertilise gardens, these are both potentially lethal for dogs. Compost may contain 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.



Plants & 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 and flowers are safe, keep a close eye on your dog in the garden and around house plants.

At the seaside



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.



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.



Salt water

Danger: Dogs 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.



Fish Hooks

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

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

Common poisons



Ant repellent

Danger: Like slug and snail pellets, ant powders, baits and gels can 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.



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.



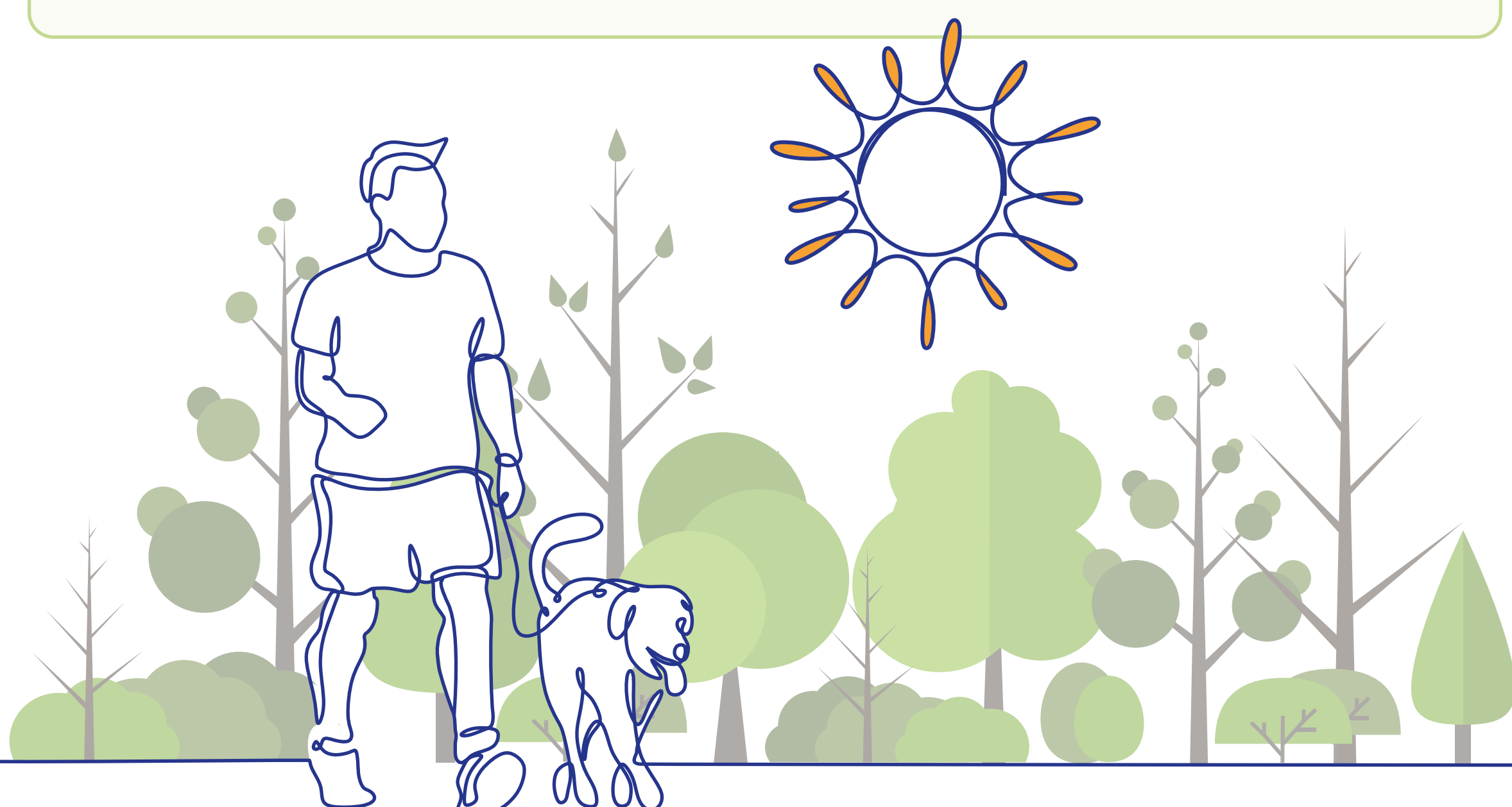
Weed killer

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.

Why do some dogs eat anything and everything?

- Natural scavenging behavior
- Curiosity
- Boredom
- Previously successful 'begging'
- Possible medical condition like diabetes
- Possible nutrient deficiency
- Dental reasons like teething



vets-now.com/summer

Vetsnow