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May 2019 Newsletter

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In This Issue...

Summer
Safety Tips



Carrier
Pigeons



Did You
Know?



Mother's Day
Story

Now that we can officially embrace the warm weather, many of us are looking for ways to keep our families safe in the heat. However, many people tend to forget to prep for our furrer family member –our dogs.



Pups can often get forgotten in the hustle and bustle of summer, but they need just as much help with protection from the heat as ourselves and our kids. Lack of preparation and knowledge could lead to issues for your pooch, including the potential for [heatstroke](#) or overheating. Luckily,

we are here to help provide you with some tips and tricks for keeping your dog cool during these warm months ahead- read on!

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

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Ways to Keep Your Dog Cool in Hot Weather



1. Proper Hydration:

This is, by far, the most important factor in keeping your dog cool during the summer. Everybody gets that feeling of being extremely thirsty after running around outside in the heat, and for your dog, that can be excruciating. Make sure that your pup's water dish is always full so they can hydrate when necessary. To take it a step further, you can even allow them to hydrate and cool off in a different way with a kiddie pool in the backyard to splash in. In any case, always have water nearby and ready to drink.

2. Get 'Em Groomed:

As dog lovers already know, your pups have a ton of fur; This thick fur can make them quite warm during the summer months, as if you were wearing a knitted sweater in the middle of July. That being said, you'll want to make sure to get them groomed as necessary during these sunny days to help keep them a bit cooler. You can always ask your vet what they think is best in terms of their coat during the spring and summer.

3. Be Smart:

This sounds silly, but it is so true. You need to think it through before taking action during the summer. If you have an errand to run, don't bring your dog with you if you're going to leave them in the car in the intense heat. You also want to make sure that if you are leaving them home for the day, you allow them to have a cool place to rest in the meantime, such as the kitchen floor that

Did You Know?

Pets outnumber children in U.S. households. Nearly 84.6 million households have dogs, cats, or other pets while only about 35 million have children.

has a cooler surface, or even a bit of shade if they are outside. Again, always make sure they have plenty of water nearby as well.

Getting ready for summer is fun for the whole family, and makes everyone anxious for what the warm sunshine has to offer. While we get ready, it is important to make sure that we don't forget our furry friends during the summer months when the heat is intense, but with these tips, you'll be sure to keep them happy and healthy while the sun is out. We hope that you've gained a bit of knowledge on keeping your dog cool for the hot weather, and that you have a summer that you will never forget.

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

Remembering the Pigeons of WWII this Memorial Day



Memorial Day is an important day to honor our fallen veterans, both past and present. Any animal lover knows that this should include our

service animals. One of our lesser known friends that we should remember to honor this Memorial Day has feathers: the carrier pigeon.



Use by the Allied Forces

The Allied forces used these pigeons to call for resistance against the Axis forces. These pigeons returned carrying messages of German troop movements, resistance groups within occupied countries, and messages from covert agents within Germany. While only a small percentage of these important birds made it back to their homes, some of these pigeons carried important intelligence that was responsible for saving the lives of millions.

Combating the Carrier Pigeon

These pigeons were not simply caught by enemy troops. The Axis and Allied forces both had an extreme paranoia because of how powerful these birds could be! Both sides specially trained birds of prey, such as hawks, to attack pigeons on sight! MI5 even had a specially designed falconry unit to guard against the carrier pigeon.

Where Are They Now?

Unfortunately, with the advances of counterintelligence, carrier pigeons fell out of use. Today, a small percentage of people will train these birds as enthusiasts, but their mission no longer has the splendor that they once did during the war.



Even still these [feathered friends](#) made a huge impact on the World War. They were real heroes to the Allied forces during their tenure. So, this Memorial Day, while we honor our fallen

human heroes, remember our feathered heroes, too: the carrier pigeon.

What Were Carrier Pigeons?

Simply, carrier pigeons were trained pigeons! On another level, carrier pigeons were important intelligence companions utilized during World War II. More than 16,000 carrier pigeons were utilized to communicate with intelligence agents located behind enemy lines. They were utilized not only by the Axis forces, but also by the Allied forces. These feathered agents were the most secure way of sending covert messages as opposed to radio or telegraph communication that could be intercepted.

Carrier pigeons, sometimes known as homing pigeons, were extremely intelligent, but only knew how to fly to their "home" location. This made them difficult to track and even harder to intercept!

Use by Nazi Forces

The Nazi forces were so enthralled with the abilities of carrier pigeons that Hitler ordered the government take over all pigeon lofts for government purposes. It is suspected that spies located outside of Germany utilized these pigeons to communicate back with the German forces. The British even believe that some carrier pigeons made their way from Britain back to Germany with important intelligence.

How Mickey and Mallory Saved Me: A Mothers Day Cat Story



While traditionally Mothers Day has been reserved for moms to human babies, cat mommies need recognition too. I was primarily a dog person so when a foster mom friend of mine recently asked me to take in twin kittens, I was wary but I did it. Enter Mickey and Mallory. A brother and sister team of striped, tabby, 8-week old [kittens](#). It was me or the pound, and this was a temporary situation...or so I thought.

6 months later, these two loveable furballs have become a part of our family. I had initially agreed to this arrangement assuming that these little guys would be more of a pet to the kids, at least until I found them a forever home (the cats, not the kids!). I could not have been more wrong. They decided to adopt me. As I am typing this, Mick, the momma's boy is attempting to pull my hand away from the keyboard. Mallory is sleeping contently up against my legs.

Cats as a whole, are amazing creatures. They are incredibly intelligent and once they warm to you, are the most loving animals. Being a cat mom myself, I can tell you that these little furballs are no different from my biological children. They have enriched my life and I am proud to call myself a [kitty mommy](#).

About 2.7 million animals are euthanized every year. 1.4 million of those animals are cats. With Mothers Day right around the corner, consider giving the gift of unconditional love. Visit your local SPCA or animal shelter and [adopt a cat](#) for the special mom in your life. It will be the best gift you could ever give.

-C.Rochette

happy
mother's day!

Professional Pet Sitting Etc.
603-888-8088
www.profpetsit.com
profpetsit@aol.com

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