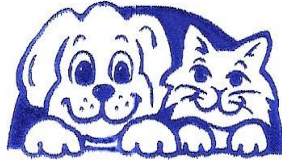


# PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL e-NEWSLETTER

Kaye Wigginton, D.V.M.  
Rita Ruple, D.V.M.  
Sandra Krall, D.V.M.  
Deidra Blackmon, D.V.M.



1780 Rufe Snow Drive  
Keller, Texas 76248  
**817-281-1111**  
FAX: 817-281-2917

WELCOME to the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL monthly e-Newsletter

June 2010, Vol. 3, No. 5

Look forward to health care tips and information, including services available for your pet; product rebates/promotions and much more, coordinating with the Parkside Animal Hospital website: [www.parksideanimalhospital.com](http://www.parksideanimalhospital.com)

## WELCOME, DR. DEIDRA BLACKMON!



**We are pleased to welcome Deidra Blackmon, D.V.M.  
to the staff of Parkside Animal Hospital.**

Originally from Haltom City, Dr. Blackmon graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University in 2010. She has a special interest in small animal surgery.

Some may recognize Dr. Blackmon from her many years at Parkside Animal Hospital as a Veterinary Technician prior to attending veterinary school.

Dr. Blackmon resides in Keller with her husband Mark and their three cats, Gator, Ira and Vivian; and 2 dogs, Twitch and Pittsley and a horse named Dunny. She enjoys live music, baseball, movies and horseback riding.

## SUMMER HEAT ADVISORY - HEAT STROKE DANGER

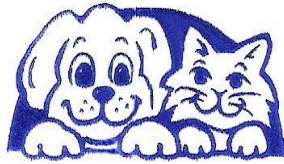
**EMERGENCY STEPS you should know**

# JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY CONCERNS

**..all contained in this newsletter**

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Seen recently at Parkside:



Dottie



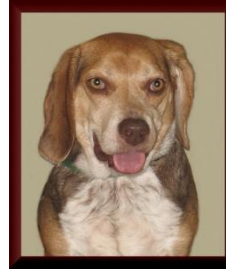
Lexus



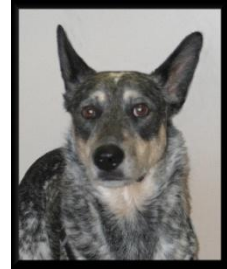
Maximus



Ginger



Jax



Cooper



Missy



Fergie



Beau



J. Lo



Beaux



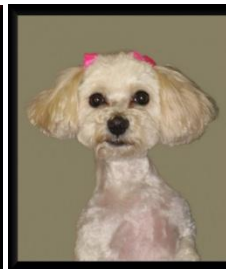
Weezie



Mocha



Stewart



NellyBean



Nibbles



Tucker



Daisy



Maggie



Freya



Ozzie



Cinder



Luna



Salma

See our website for recipes for FROSTY PAWS and other summer treats your pet might enjoy.

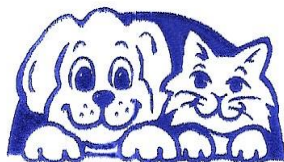
[www.parksideanimalhospital.com](http://www.parksideanimalhospital.com) click tab: FUN STUFF, RECIPES AND MORE

Full Service Veterinary Care – Laser Surgery – Dental Care – Radiographs & Dental Xray – Grooming

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> of JULY, INDEPENDENCE DAY ..a dangerous, scary time for pets!

Independence Day, our nation's birthday, symbolizes freedom and independence, but sadly it brings the wrong kind of freedom and independence for many pets. Animal rescue organizations report that in reaction to the fireworks, more companion animals escape their yards and homes on July 4<sup>th</sup> than on any other day of the year.

Days leading up to and days after the Fourth can also be dangerous, because of folks setting off their own fireworks or firing guns. Following are tips on keeping your dogs and cats safe during the week of Independence Day celebrations.

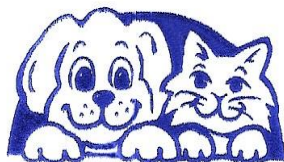
- **DO NOT TAKE YOUR PETS ALONG TO FIREWORKS DISPLAYS.** These are not fun for most pets, they are terrifying, confusing and painful moments for your beloved pet.
- **BRING YOUR PETS INDOORS BEFORE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS BEGIN.**
- Make sure your pets have access to their favorite 'safe place' (crate); best if it is in an **INTERIOR**/enclosed room with **NO WINDOWS**, where pets may 'hide' if they need to.
- Turn a radio or TV on so there is normal background noise.
- **MICROCHIPS are the BEST ID.** Many pets panic with the noise and concussion of fireworks and pull out of their collars and run away in confusion and fear.. leaving collar ID and tags behind.
- **DO NOT LEAVE PETS OUTSIDE** and **DO NOT TETHER OR CHAIN** pets. In their panic; many pets injure themselves thrashing against restraint. **BRING YOUR PETS INSIDE** to a secure, quiet room.
- Make sure all windows and are closed securely. **DOGGIE DOORS SHOULD BE LOCKED.** Window/door screens will not hold a terrified pet, running in a panic. We have seen them run through glass windows.
- **DO NOT TRUST A FENCE** to hold a pet outside. Many dig under or climb over to escape
- **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET IN A CAR:** heatstroke and death are likely as partially open windows do not provide sufficient relief from the building heat and your pet may be stolen.
- If you know your pet is distressed by loud noises like thunder or fireworks, **CONSULT WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN** the week prior to the 4<sup>th</sup>, for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety your pet will experience during fireworks displays.
- If you are traveling over the holidays and plan to leave your pet in someone's care; make sure your care-taker has specific plans in place to help safeguard your pet. Better yet, have your pet boarded by professionals who are aware and prepared to deal with the danger this holiday brings to many pets.

If you are hosting holiday celebrations, make sure your pet has no access to alcoholic beverages, glass containers, or any "people food"; unused or spent fireworks. Serious health consequences may result, possibly death; in addition to an untimely visit to the Emergency Hospital. Love your pet? Keep 'em safe!

## HAVE A FUN, SAFE and HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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As the danger is so great.. we repeat the HEAT ADVISORY alert covered in depth in our last newsletter. We've had 2 pet fatalities in the last few days at Parkside Animal Hospital due to heat stroke and the emergency hospital is seeing several cases daily.  
The danger is real... please **PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.**

## **HEAT STROKE CAN KILL QUICKLY!**

Please read the warning signs/suggestions below, and access the detailed information in our previous newsletter, accessible on in the NEWSLETTER LIBRARY on our website. Please share information with your friends and neighbors as many do not realize the danger.

**Preventing Heat Stroke:** You can prevent heat stroke from happening in the first place.

- **NEVER leave your pet alone in the car** on a warm day, regardless of whether the windows are open. Even if the weather outside is not extremely hot, the inside of the car acts like an oven - temperatures can rise to dangerously high levels in a matter of minutes.
- **Avoid exercise** on warm days. **Even short walks can be too much for some pets.** When outside, opt for shady areas.
- **Keep fresh cool water available** at all times. Place water bowls in shade as they heat quickly in direct sun. Make sure your pet has several bowls of cool water available. It doesn't hurt to drop an ice cube in once in awhile, not only to cool the water, but to pique your pet's interest in drinking. Strangely enough, cats affected by external heat may refuse to drink water, exacerbating the problem of dehydration.
- **Certain types of dogs/cats are more sensitive to heat** - especially obese, elderly or pets already stressed by respiratory or heart conditions. Brachycephalic dogs (short-nosed) breeds, like Pugs and Bulldogs. Dark coated dogs, dogs with long or heavy coats or coats that are matted are extremely vulnerable. Use extreme caution when these dogs are exposed to heat. Breeds of cats with flat noses may exhibit heat stress earlier because of compromised airways.)
- **BRING PETS INDOORS.** Heat and humidity can combine to dangerous levels even when temperatures are in the 80's

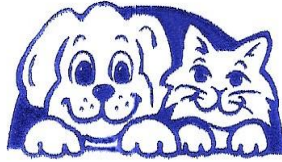
**Signs of Heat Stroke:** The following signs may indicate heat stroke in a pet:

- **Increased internal/rectal temperature** (Dogs: over 104° requires action, over 106° is a dire emergency. Cat's internal temperature should be between 100.5° and 101.5° F. A temperature of 104° or more is a definite warning sign. )
- **Vigorous panting (panting & anxiety in cats)**
- **Dark red gums**
- **Tacky or dry mucus membranes** (specifically the gums)
- **Lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up in dogs; lethargy in cats**
- **Collapse and/or loss of consciousness**
- **Thick saliva**
- **Dizziness or disorientation**
- **Seizures or vomiting**

**What to do if You Suspect Heat Stroke:** If you have even the slightest suspicion that your pet is suffering from heat stroke, **you must take immediate action, GET TO A VETERINARIAN ASAP!**

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1. First, move your pet out of the heat and away from the sun right away.
2. Begin cooling your pet by placing cool, wet rags or washcloths on the body - especially the foot pads and around the head.
3. **DO NOT use ice or very cold water or over-cool the pet! DO NOT PLACE THE PET IN A POOL or RUN WATER OVER THEM WITH A HOSE.** Extreme cold can cause the blood vessels to constrict, preventing the body's core from cooling and actually causing the internal temperature to further rise. In addition, over-cooling can cause hypothermia, introducing a host of new problems. When the body temperature reaches 103°, stop cooling. IMPORTANT: do initial cooling then bring pet to a veterinarian immediately. If you can cool the pet while someone is driving you to the vet, so much the better. Minutes count here, it may make the difference in your pet surviving, or not.
4. Offer your pet cool water, but do not force water into your pet's mouth.
5. **Call or get to your vet right away** - even if your pet seems better. Internal damage might not be obvious to the naked eye, so an exam is necessary (and further testing may be recommended).

*Tip: recruit others to help you - ask someone to call the vet while others help you cool your pet.*

**Prevention is the key to keeping your pet safe during warmer weather.**

In celebration of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**, the birthday of our country...

**Parkside Animal Hospital will be CLOSED**

**Saturday, July 3rd**

We will re-open Monday, July 5th at 7:30am.

Should your pets require veterinary care during the holiday, contact

**Animal Emergency Hospital of North Texas**

2700 West Highway 114 Grapevine, TX 76051

**817-410-2273**

Smiling faces, caring hearts

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