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## Seven Tips for Summer Pet Safety

[Editor's note: photos available upon request]

**Placer County, Calif.** – Summer means fun in the sun with your furry friends, but that joy can turn into a stressful situation if you're not careful about animal care. To ensure a fun and safe summer, the Placer SPCA asks all pet parents to take note of the following summer tips:

**1. Keep your pet home and out of the car:** The easiest way to keep your pets safe this summer is to leave them at home when running errands! On just a 90-degree day, it takes less than 10 minutes for a car's interior to reach 160 degrees. Leaving your pet in the car –even for a short time–can lead to heatstroke, irreversible organ damage, or death. These tragedies are 100% preventable, so keep your furry friends out of the hot car.

**2. Exercise when it's coolest:** Avoid exercising your pet on hot days – except earlier in the morning or later in the evening. Always have plenty of water available, and remember that asphalt and concrete can get very hot in the summer sun. A good way to see if the ground is too hot for your pet is to place your hand on the sidewalk or asphalt. If it hurts you, it is too hot for their paws!

**3. Beware of mosquitoes:** Heartworm, a parasite that can be fatal for dogs and cats, is transmitted by mosquitoes - a common summer pest. Check with your veterinarian to see if your pet should be taking heartworm medication, and clean outdoor water bowls often to prevent the hatching of mosquito larva.

**4. Watch out for pesticides:** Plant food, fertilizers, and insecticides in backyards and public spaces are more widely used during the warmer months. These chemicals can be fatal if ingested by dogs or cats, so insure you follow pet safety guidelines when using them in your own yard and watch your pets in outdoor spaces to prevent accidents.

**5. Protect them from the sun:** Provide plenty of shade and water for your pet at all times, and remember that pets can get sunburned too! Use sunscreen on pets with short coats, light colored noses, or fur on their ears to protect them from the powerful California summer sun.

**6. Continue social distancing with your pet:** Consider leaving your pets behind when you know there will be a lot of stimulation. Loud noises, lights, and larger numbers of people combined can be very overwhelming for animals. Water can also be in short supply at events, often leading to dehydration of people and pets alike.

**7. Track your pet:** Make sure your pet has an identification tag and microchip, these help give you the best chance of reuniting with your pet if they get lost. Microchips are available at the Placer SPCA's Companion Animal Care Center for \$20 during regular business hours.

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### ABOUT THE PLACER SPCA

Since 1973, the Placer SPCA has been dedicated to facilitating the humane treatment of animals in Placer County as well as a safer, healthier community overall. This non-profit organization houses up to 4,000 animals each year, and includes an education room and treatment rooms for sick and injured animals. Other services provided by the Placer SPCA include adoption counseling, spay/neuter assistance and education, pet lost and found, humane education, collaborative rescue efforts, foster care, mobile adoption, behavior modification counseling and training, and volunteer opportunities. The Placer SPCA is not affiliated with any other entity and does not receive funding from the ASPCA or HSUS. For more information, visit [www.placerspca.org](http://www.placerspca.org).