

# Canine Summer Safety Tips

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Parson Russell Terrier Isabelle Francis ©AKC



Labrador Retriever ©AKC

**STATEMENT**  
The American Kennel Club® is committed to promoting the integrity of the sport and breeding for the best. Founded in 1884, the AKC is the oldest and most respected organization of purebred dog owners and breeders. We advance canine health and safety through our work to protect the interests of dog owners and breeders and promote responsible dog ownership.



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### Health Tips

We may know our canine companions better than anyone, but it is important to remember most of us are not veterinary professionals. If you are uncertain how to treat your dogs' medical needs or if you have any questions, about your dog's health, contact your veterinarian. Keep the following information in mind with the arrival of summer:

- Have your dog's vaccinations updated, if necessary. Diseases such as rabies, distemper and parvo are ever-present dangers.
- Beware of insect bites. If your dog is bitten or stung, remove the stinger, and watch the site for an allergic reaction. If a reaction occurs or if there have been multiple wasp, bee or mosquito bites, take the animal to the veterinarian.
- Talk with your veterinarian about flea and tick prevention medications.
- Heartworm is a common problem for dogs. Take your dog to a veterinarian for a heartworm check every spring and follow your veterinarian's advice for heartworm precautions.
- Lawn and garden products may be hazardous. Make sure that plants and fertilizers within the dog's reach are not toxic.
- Dogs may need extra brushing and bathing to stay clean and healthy when spending more time outside.
- No matter how careful and responsible you may be, accidents can happen. Make sure your vet's phone number is close at hand and available to all family members.

### General Summer Safety

- Hot weather can make your dog uncomfortable, and your dog needs some safety advice for the summer.
  - Never leave your dog in a car, even in the sunlight or in a cool shade. Heatstroke can occur and lead to death. Signs of heatstroke include drooling, rapid panting, weakness, and disorientation. If you suspect your dog is suffering, immerse the dog in cool water and call your emergency veterinarian immediately. Do not leave your dog unattended in a car. When it's only 70 degrees inside of a car, it can reach 120 degrees in just 10 minutes. Roll down the windows partially to help. Your dog is not a furnace. Heatstroke is a medical emergency and possible death can occur.
- Always make sure your dog has access to fresh water.

Be sure your dog is registered with the AKC. Registration supports canine health research and responsible dog ownership programs that make a difference for dogs and their neighbors. When you register your dog, you help support permanent records and help you give your dog the best care possible. And you give yourself the opportunity to participate in exciting events and programs. Contact your local AKC club today to get started.

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proper identification at all times. A collar with an ID tag or a microchip. Avoid sunburn when outdoors to prevent skin injuries.

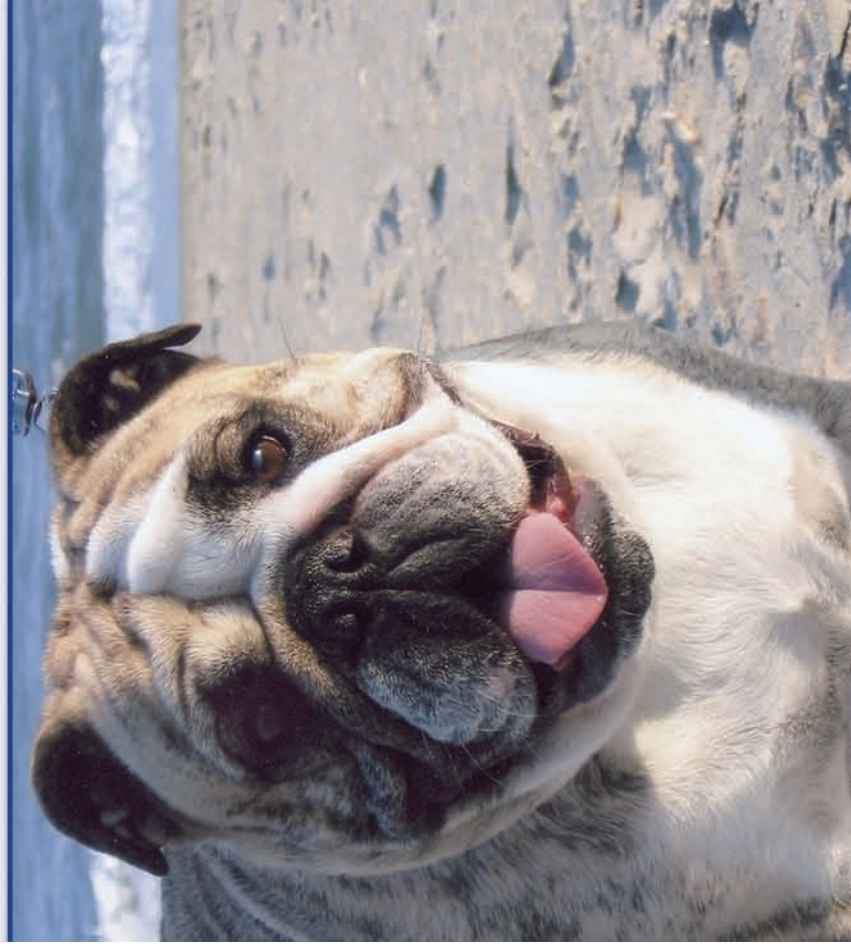
Exercise with your dog in the shade, and refrain from strenuous exercise in the sun's heat is

Swimming can be a great exercise for your dog, but water and shade for

- Dogs can get sunburn, especially short-haired dogs and ones with pink skin and white hair. Limit your dog's exposure when the sun is unusually strong, and apply sunblock to his ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside.

- Check with a lifeguard for daily water conditions — dogs are easy targets for jellyfish and sea lice.

- If your dog is out of shape, don't encourage him to run on the sand. Running on a beach is strenuous exercise, and an out-of-shape dog can easily pull a tendon or ligament.



- Cool ocean water is tempting to your dog. Do not allow him to drink too much seawater. The salt in the water will make him sick.

- Salt and other minerals found in the ocean can damage your dog's coat. So, when you are ready to leave for the day, rinse him with fresh water.

- Not all beaches permit dogs. Check local ordinances before you begin your excursion.

## Does Your Doggy Paddle?

The majority of dogs can swim, and they love it. But dogs entering the water for the first time should be tested. Here are some important tips for teaching your dog how to swim:

- Never throw your dog into the water.

- Start in shallow water, and call your dog's name. You can also try to coax him in with a treat or toy, but always keep your dog within reach.

- Another way to introduce your dog to the water is with a dog that already swims and is friendly with your dog. Let your dog follow his friend.

- If your dog begins to doggy-paddle with his front legs only, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and will then keep his back end up.

- Swimming is a great form of exercise, but don't let your dog overdo it. He will be using new muscles and may tire quickly.

- Be careful of strong tides that are hazardous for even the best swimmers.

- Never leave your dog unattended! You should always be in a position to help him get out of the water.



Golden Retriever  
Isabelle Francias @AKC