



Summer 2017

Hey Fluffy Buddies!!

Welcome to late SUMMER! It's wonderful...when it stops raining...and now that Samson can go with me again!

He's doing very well, says the vet. Samson himself says he's more than ready to run, race, chase and be normal again! We have to take it carefully for a long time, but the healing is doing great. It's truly unfortunate that his knee cap is blown in his newest ACL repair. That would take another surgery, however, and both Samson and I have agreed that isn't going to happen. Samson is a wonderful and...what, WHAT, Samson? Oh....Samson is a stunningly handsome and wonderful guy, but he has had more than his share of surgery, he says. I tend to agree.

As the weather is warm and humid, I am always reminded that our animals are not able to speak for themselves when it comes to being hot. Dogs and cats cannot sweat like people do. They can only sweat through the pads of their feet. Shaving them down does NOT keep them cooler. If they seem to be overly warm, check to see if they need to be groomed. Mats and dense undercoats can prevent cooling from occurring.

Also, while we are all aware that dogs and cats cannot be left in cars in warm weather, or even in cool weather if the sun beats on the car – did you know that it's actually painful for our pets to walk on or lie on concrete, asphalt and hard reflective surfaces? If YOU cannot walk barefoot comfortably on sand, sidewalks, roadways or driveways, neither can your dog. They can sustain serious burns and very painful pads!

Always be sure your pets have lots and lots of cool and FRESH water at all times. Most animals will not drink from bowls that have stale water. And did you know that cats do not like to drink from bowls that are so deep or narrow that their whiskers touch? Apparently whiskers touching the sides of a bowl causes a reaction much like fingernails on chalkboards to us! Who knew? Oh, excuse me. Apparently Spike, Blossom and Scout knew. I have been corrected. Sorry, guys.

Remember to check your window screens for their sturdiness. Cats can attempt to chase birds – or bugs – through windows, and if the screen is loose, so may be your kitties!

Did you know that both cats and dogs can get sunburned? True! Light-fur, light noses, thin fur, upright ears – all are subject to sunburn. You can protect your dogs and cats with sunscreen made for pets. See your retailer for more information. Aloe is a good sunburn reliever, both for pets and humans.

Ticks and fleas and mosquitoes are supposed to be very active this summer, with the very wet spring we had. Try to remember to keep your pets current on all flea and tick preventative (and the heartworm). Keep an eye out for standing water, and empty any you see. It takes less than 4 ounces of water in a puddle for mosquitoes to breed. They carry such bad diseases!

If your pet gets into something that causes an allergic reaction, call your vet immediately. Dogs and cats can be allergic to bee stings, poison ivy, poison sumac, and so on. Some of our most lovely garden flowers are the most toxic. Lilies in all forms come to mind.

Despite the hazards of summer weather, it's a wonderful time to be out of doors with your pets. Be sure to leash all animals for their safety. Take along water for your animals if you go for long walks. If you get thirsty, they will, too!

I hope you have wonderful plans for the remainder of the summer. School starts up again soon – and kids going off to college may mean a trip out of town for you. If you are going to be traveling, be sure to confine your pets as you load up vehicles, to avoid them escaping during the excitement and mayhem.

Also, may I remind you that it's important to contact me well in advance (whenever possible) if you will be needing my services. I do my best to accommodate everyone, but the schedule fills quickly, and I can't always juggle. I appreciate each and every one of you!

Luv U Bunches!!!

Jill & the Fluffy Paw gang