

# BONUS POSTER INSIDE

DOGFANCY®

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# Play it safe

Have fun in the sun with our  
guide to summer safety.

By Heera Kang

**I**f your dog is anything like mine, she doesn't care that it's 102 degrees outside with no cloud cover. She doesn't care about the layer of oily fumes hovering over the burning asphalt. She wants out! Here's the thing: Whether or not you live in one of the hottest states in the country, like Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, or Texas, owners like you need to look out for the safety of their dogs during summer days.

#### Water rules

Heading to the water to escape the summer heat makes sense, right? But before letting your furry pal jump into the river, lake, or swimming pool, take some precautions to make sure the play stays safe. "Purchase a canine life jacket that is properly fitted to your dog," says Andrea Jeffress, dog owner and rescuer for 25 years and board chair for the Animals Benefit Club, an all-volunteer, nonprofit, no-kill shelter that rescues and re-homes animals in the scorching Phoenix area. Even strong swimmers

can get tired or disoriented out in open water or in a current.

And while you're slathering on sunscreens, don't forget your dog's skin is sensitive to the sun, too. Apply (and reapply) canine sunscreens — or sunscreens formulated for babies — on dogs' noses and over the skin of dogs with light or short fur.

When introducing your dog to a swimming pool, Jeffress recommends going ahead and getting into the water with your dog for the first couple of times. "Make sure the dog knows where the steps are to get out of the water," she advises. Have you ever seen a dog trying to climb a ladder out of a pool or onto a dock? It's not pretty. In fact, it's a sticky, flailing mess. Make sure your dog has easy access in and out of the water by using a floating ramp or similar product.

#### Ditch heat stroke

We love dogs for their uncomplaining, indefatigable companionship. For as long as we hike or run, we can bet our canine companions will follow us with enthusiasm, even to the point of heat stroke. With their non-sweating, fur-covered bodies, dogs can have a hard time



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