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For Immediate Release

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HOT WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

Alijah Hunter, Director of the Michigan City Animal Control Department, issued the following statement: "During this extreme hot weather condition, pet owners are reminded to take precautionary steps to keep your pet safe by following these safety tips issued by World Wide Pet Industry Association (WWPIA):"

Use Proper Restraint: When traveling in your vehicle, your pet should always be properly restrained for both your and their safety. In the case of an accident, a dog can weigh up 30 times its weight upon impact while traveling at 35 mph. Today, many companies create seatbelt systems and crates to keep animals safely secured while on the

road.

Never Leave Your Pet In the Car: In 70 degree weather and above, it takes only minutes for the temperatures in your car to escalate to triple digits. Leaving the window open an inch does not provide adequate ventilation. Many states are passing laws that prohibit leaving your pet alone in your automobile. So if your car is parked, please make sure to remove your pet from the car.

Bring Water: Car travel can make your pets feel anxious and result in nervous panting. Be sure to take frequent breaks during your trip to allow your pet the opportunity to re-hydrate.

Avoid Pavement in Hot Weather: Your dog has very sensitive paw pads, and the hot asphalt during the summer months can burn them. Instead, opt to walk your pet on grass or plan your walks during the early morning/late evening when the pavement is not as hot.

Know the Symptoms of Heat stroke: Dogs cannot cool down as easily as humans and are more likely to suffer heat stroke during the summer. The symptoms of overheating include excessive panting, drooling, sluggish and unresponsiveness. Dogs with thick coats, short muzzles and heart or breathing problems are at greater risk for heat stroke and should remain indoors with air conditioning during extremely hot days.

Refill Pet Medications/Combat Fleas and Ticks: Insect populations increase during the summer months, escalating the chances that your pet will come into contact with ticks and fleas. Make sure that your pet is upto-date with their heartworm shots and refill their flea and tick medications.

Limit Access to Pools: Many dogs do not know how to swim. If you own a pet, make sure that your pool is securely fenced off from the rest of your backyard and that the gate is always closed when people enter and leave the pool area.

Invest in a Life Preserver: Most dogs are not great swimmers. If you plan to vacation on a boat or stay near a body of water with your pet, it would be a wise investment to purchase a life preserver. Companies have created vests outfitted specifically for pets.

Limit Time in Water: If your dog does enjoy swimming outdoors, be sure to limit the amount of time they spend in the water. A dog that is overexerted and can't swim back to shore is especially susceptible to drowning.

"If you keep your pet outdoors, make sure there is plenty of fresh cool water and shade, if possible, bring your pets inside during the hottest times of day to keep them cool. The best time to play is during the cool morning hours or late in the evening after the sun has set" stated Alijah.