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Memorial Day Weekend Safety Tips

As the unofficial start to summer, Memorial Day is a great excuse to get outdoors and celebrate with your family and friends—including your four-legged ones. Whether you're attending a party, barbecuing or just soaking up some rays, it's important to keep your pet's safety in mind. To prevent any Memorial Day mishaps, the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center \(APCC\)](#) has put together some tips to help protect pets during the "Dog Days" of the season.

Party Smart: Barbeques are one of the most popular Memorial Day activities, but [cookouts can bring with them potential dangers for your pets](#), including citronella, grills, food and drinks. Keep alcohol away from animals, do not give any table scraps. Keep your pets away from dishes that contain raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and avocado—they're especially toxic to animals.

Be Cool Near the Pool: Never leave pets unsupervised around a pool or lake—not all dogs are expert swimmers - and always have them wear a flotation device on a boat. Try to keep your dog from drinking pool water, which contains potentially dangerous chemicals like chlorine. Many pool chemicals will cause burns to the mouth, throat and stomach. Keep any extra chemicals stored out of reach.

Skip the Spray: Unless specifically designed for animals, insect repellent and sunscreen can be toxic to pets. Signs of toxicity include drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. DEET, a common insecticide in products for humans, may also cause neurological issues in dogs.

Made in the Shade: Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so be sure that they have plenty of fresh, clean water and make sure that they have a shady place to get out of the sun. You'll also want to note that animals with flat faces—like Pugs and Persian cats—are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with those who are elderly, overweight or have heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

IDs, Please: Time spent outdoors comes with the added risk of curious pets escaping. Make sure that your pet is fitted with a microchip or ID tag with identifying information, or (preferably) both. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Keep an eye on your road trip companions: If you will be traveling, make sure to never leave your pet in your car unattended, and keep a close eye on any personal items stashed in your car that your pet might ingest (e.g., gum or medications). Read [APCC's tips for safely traveling with your pets](#) to learn more.

As we celebrate this holiday, we also want to stop and reflect on the men and women who have sacrificed for our country. This Memorial Day, we honor them. Have a happy, safe and healthy holiday with your loved ones!

If you have any reason to suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian or the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) immediately with our 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.

For the full article, visit:

<https://www.aspc.org/news/how-celebrate-memorial-day-weekend-safely-your-pets>