



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Summer Fun and Enrichment Activities



Everyone enjoys getting outside in the warmer weather and breathing in the fresh air of longer summer days, and that includes our pets. The nicer weather is a perfect time to get outside and blow off some steam and release energy. It should always be noted that pets must be

watched for signs of heat exhaustion on hotter days. We may not think it's stifling but we aren't wearing a fur coat.

Swimming and water activities are a great way to get outside and cool down on hot summer days. A lot of dogs love to play in water, whether it is a larger family pool, a personal kiddie pool or even a sprinkler system. Many companies are now catering to the pet market by making summer sprinklers specifically for pets. They work by attaching a hose to the sprinkler system and when the pet steps on the provided pad, the water comes out in either a fountain or a sprinkler setting. This is wonderful for two reasons – one, it saves water because the hose and sprinkler aren't constantly running and two, it allows the pet to decide when they want to be

Health Tip for the Season

When playing outside watch for signs of heat exhaustion. While panting is normal for dogs, trouble breathing and excessive panting is not. Also watch for drooling, reddened gums, vomiting, and uncoordinated movement.

If you notice any of these signs, get the pet somewhere cool immediately. If the dog is away from home and not near air conditioning, apply cool - NOT COLD - water to their paw pads, groin area, under the neck and ears. Be careful not to use ice water or an unwrapped ice pack as cooling a pet down too quickly can result in shock.

Training Tip for the Season

Summer is a great time to get out and enjoy the weather, but some days in July will simply be too

sprayed with water.

For pets who like to splash and play, a kiddie pool is great way to keep cool! Some dogs will only want to lie in the water and others will spend hours bouncing in and out. Depending on the depth, a pet could even dive for toys or dive sticks. If you're feeling really creative, sand could even be put in the bottom of the pool and toys buried within for pets to dig and find.

While kiddie pools are mostly safe, there are a few precautions that need to be taken. Never leave a pet unattended in the water, even a strong swimmer could have an accident. Kiddie pools can be very slippery and could pose a fall risk and senior dogs may have more of a problem keeping their footing.

For pets who aren't a fan of water but still want to get outside and enjoy the nicer days, our article [At Home Agility Fun](#) can teach you how to build your own agility course. Our article is full of fun ideas for pets that won't have them risking paw burns on hot pavement.

There are thousands of ways you and your pet can take advantage of the warmer months. All you need is some creativity, time and a pet that enjoys the outdoors.

hot or humid for pets to be outside for long periods of time. As we mentioned in the health tip above, it's important to always watch for signs of overheating and heat exhaustion. When the weather turns sweltering, pets can still be entertained inside with mental stimulation and fun puzzle games. Our article [Mental Stimulation](#) is full of fun ideas that will keep pets entertained in the comfort of the AC.

[Pet Sitter Tip for the Season](#)

When temperatures go above 85 degrees, the pavement is too hot for dog walking and poses a risk for pad burns and heat exhaustion. To keep your pets safe, we will be keeping play to shaded areas and/or at smaller intervals in yards. We will make sure your pet has access to plenty of water during play, even in shaded areas.

Featured Rescue of the Month



The Westmoreland/Fayette/Allegheny County Animal Response Team (CART) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping animals in times of disaster or emergency. Every County has a CART, which operates under the guidance of the State Animal Response Team (SART). CART Members come from all walks of life but share a love for animals, and are trained, credentialed emergency response officials. CART has two primary missions. The first is temporary sheltering for animals displaced by emergencies or disasters, such as fires, floods, extreme weather, etc. Like the Red Cross, which opens temporary shelters for people who have had to evacuate their home, CART can quickly set up a temporary animal shelter for animals displaced as a result of a disaster or emergency. It is critically important that when people must evacuate their home that they take their pets with them, and CART can give them peace of mind knowing that there is a safe place for their pets to go while they are in a temporary shelter for people. CART does not just deal with small animals like dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, etc., but can also, if need be during a disaster, arrange temporary sheltering for large animals such as horses as well as livestock. CART can also provide "Pet Care Comfort Kits" of supplies for people who may have lost everything in a disaster.

CART's other main mission is technical rescue, and that generally involves the use of specialized equipment to rescue animals that have somehow gotten themselves "stuck." Just a few of the technical rescues CART has conducted include the rescue of horses stuck in mud or cast in a trailer or stall, the extrication of a calf that had fallen into an abandoned mine shaft, a cat in a wall, and a dog in a sewer line. While all CART Members have completed extensive training, those serving on the Large Animal Team are required to complete specialized large animal technical rescue training due to the dangers involved when dealing with large animals such as horses or livestock, as well as the need to be proficient in the use of specialized rescue equipment.

CART is generally called out through 911 or by other First Responders or the Red Cross. While CART is not authorized to enforce animal cruelty laws, it can be called out to assist Humane Officers or Police for such things as animal hoarding situations. Also, while CART does not normally deal with wildlife, it can provide assistance to the Game Commission or Wildlife Centers by transporting injured wildlife.

CART is especially proud of its Pet Oxygen Mask Program. Program Sponsors provide funding for the purchase of special pet oxygen masks, and CART then distributes the masks to fire departments and other first responders, and also provides them with training on the masks as well as pet first aid and CPR. To date CART has been able to provide over 370 sets of pet oxygen masks to over 125 fire departments or other emergency response organizations.

More information about CART, including how to become a CART Member, sponsor pet oxygen masks, make a monetary donation, or donate items for our Pet Care Comfort Kits, can be found on CART's website:
<http://westmorelandcart.weebly.com/>

You can also find information about recent incidents, activities, etc. on CART's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WFACART.PA/>

During the month of July, Comfort at Home Pet Services will be collecting donations of blankets, beds, toys, food bowls, cat litter, crates and blankets for CART's Pet Care & Comfort Kits. If you have a donation, please mark it CART and leave it out during your Comfort at Home Pet Services visit. If you need to schedule a pick up of items, contact Jen Sybol.



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of July!

Kitty Boczar
Gordon "Gordy" James Ellis
Rugby Groskin
Calico Heiden
Ava LaBella
Lucy Mack
Nala McGowan
Dewey McGowan
Cassie Overmyer-Workman
Mischief Paal
Minx Paal
Misty Paal
Mavis Petrie
Phoebe Rubright
Brandy Savko
Sailer Stefanos

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Frozen Yogurt Peanut Butter Banana Treats

Ingredients:

32 oz Plain Yogurt
3 Tablespoons Peanut Butter (make sure it contains no xylitol, which is toxic to dogs)
1 Large Banana, sliced
1 Tablespoon Honey (optional)

Instructions:

Put all ingredients into a food processor or blender. Blend until creamy.



Fill a silicone mold or an ice cube tray.

Freeze for at least 2 hours.

Pop out of molds and serve to your furry best friend. Keep leftovers in an airtight container in the freezer.

Frozen Tuna Treats

Ingredients:

Can of water-packed tuna (or canned salmon)
Approximately ½ c water
A mixing bowl or Magic Bullet
A Ziploc bag

Instructions

Start by mashing up the tuna in your bowl or stuffing it into your food mixer. Don't drain the tuna water as it helps with the freezing. Add about half a cup of water to the mix.

Then mix up that tuna in a magic bullet or food processor

Fill your Ziploc bag with the mix and cut a small hole in one end. This helps save you from making a huge mess while filling up the ice cube trays. Fill your trays and place in the freezer for a couple hours. Let cats lick the bowl.

When the treats are nice and frozen, you can pop them out and let cats have a taste! I recommend letting them chew on these on a tile floor or a plate, because I'm pretty sure you don't want tuna bits all over your house. You can store these in a plastic bag in your freezer for up to six months, so if you make a bunch you'll have some on hand for hot days!



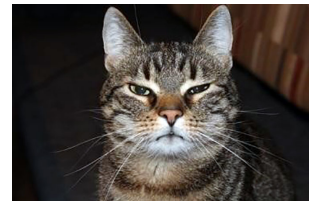
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