

FRIENDS FOR LIFE SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

1. **ALL** animals need adequate supply of food and water for their breed, activity level and age. Because we live in the desert, animals need a constant supply of clean, **fresh** water to avoid the hazards of dehydration.
2. Animals should **not** be left alone in a car! The summer can produce extremely high temperatures in a locked vehicle in a few minutes. Severe temperatures can cause dehydration or death.
3. Animals should **never** be transported in the open back of a pickup truck. Not only could they be thrown out if the vehicle stopped suddenly or was in an accident, but even a well-behaved pooch might decide to try to visit a friend he saw walking down the sidewalk nearby. You may also want to invest in an animal harness for your car. These are inexpensive and work like a seat belt for people.
4. When taking a walk or hike you need to bring water for yourself **and** your pet. Some stores sell bottled water with a pet bowl which attaches to the bottom of the bottle. This is inexpensive and can be refilled and reused.
5. Have you heard the expression, "It is so hot you could fry an egg on the sidewalk"? Well, sometimes in the summer we can just about do that here. Now imagine walking barefoot on that same sidewalk. Please be considerate of your pet's paws - they will burn too! If you need to take your pet out in the heat of the day please consider purchasing pet booties or several pairs of children's socks. Unfortunately many pets just do not seem to like these, but you can try to keep your walks mainly in the morning, evening and on grass.
6. **No** dog should be kept outside all day in 110-degree heat. Would you want to live outside even with some shade?
7. All pets should be **spayed** or **neutered** as early as possible. It is the best way to prevent euthanasia of unwanted but otherwise healthy animals. This can be done as early as 2 months of age, but rely on a reputable veterinarian for advise regarding when the best time is for your pet.
8. All pets should visit the vet at least **once a year** to keep current on their vaccinations.
9. After your dog has been tested for heartworm and found negative, you should give your pet monthly heartworm medicine according to your vet's instruction.
10. Dogs should **not** have their tails or ears docked. It is barbaric and can cause all kinds of problems. How would you like to have your ears cut up because someone thought you would look cute that way?
11. All animals need to be **bathed** regularly. If they are not, this can lead not only to major aromas but also to skin problems.
12. All animals should have their nails trimmed, either through cutting or grinding or by walks so that the nails do not become a danger to themselves or others, or become ingrown.
13. Dogs, like people, need an adequate amount of **exercise**. However, if you run 5 miles a day don't start your pet at that level. Dogs need to build up their endurance too!
14. All animals need **love** and **understanding**, especially when they make mistakes. None of us are perfect all the time!
15. If you have a pool that your pet can get to on its own be sure to introduce him to the pool so that he knows where the steps are and can get out on his own should he fall in by mistake.
16. If your pet is exhibiting behaviors that are not acceptable in your home, consider taking your pet to **obedience training**. Often, an animal simply needs to know the rules and what is expected. Generally, they want to please you and will try to make you happy if they know how.
17. If you are thinking about adopting a new animal you may want to have a family meeting and decide what type of pet, size, and personality characteristics are most important. Be **patient**, and if you do not find the right pet for your family one day, look another day. There are many animals in need of a good home. Keep looking - you will find the right one!
18. When disciplining your pet, be consistent and firm in your manner, but do **not** hit your pet. Ever.