



# Bulldog Club Of Central Canada

[www.bulldogclubofcentralcanada.net](http://www.bulldogclubofcentralcanada.net)



## Summer-proof your Bulldog!

*Information on caring for your bulldog during the summer months... what to watchout for.*

### Beware of Summer Heat

As the temperature climbs outside, it's important to monitor your dog to prevent overheating. At temperatures of 29°C, given specific humidity levels, even short exposures can be considered dangerous and result in injury or death. Limit your dogs exposure to sunlight that is unusually strong, apply sunblock to his/her nose and ears 30 minutes before going outside. Heatstroke can cause brain damage or death.

#### **Common signs of a heat stroke include:**

- Panting, drooling
- Rapid breathing and increased heart rate
- Discoloured gums—dogs experiencing heat stroke will have dull gray or pink gums instead of the red-pink colour that normally exists
- Disorientation—dogs may not be aware of their environment
- Refusal to obey commands
- Wild or panicked expression

In the event of a heat stroke, seek veterinary medical attention immediately. Help to lower your dog's body temperature by placing it in the shade with plenty of ventilation and applying cool water to the hairless area on its stomach and the pads of its paws.

#### **To prevent heat stroke do the following:**

- Do not leave a dog in a locked car.
- Avoid running with dogs during the day.

- Never let a dog go without water. It is essential to hydrate your dog to keep its body temperature at a safe level.
- If a dog is left outside, avoid tethering to a fence or tree. Place animals in enclosed areas that provide adequate shade and a shelter.

### Watch Out for Moldy Food

Dogs allowed to roam may get into compost piles or trash cans and ingest tremorgenic mycotoxins, which are toxins sometimes found in moldy food. These toxins produce varying degrees of muscle tremors or seizures that can last for hours, even days. Some dogs experience seizures so severe they result in high temperature and death.

If you suspect your pet ingested moldy food, contact your veterinarian immediately for treatment.



## Check the Bullies Paws

A healthy dog's pads should be rough and feel like fine sandpaper. Running or walking with a dog on hot pavement may burn its pads. As a general rule, if the sidewalk is too hot for you to walk barefoot on, it is too hot for your dog.

## Prevent Fleas and Ticks

Fleas can cause medical problems in pets including flea allergy dermatitis, tapeworms, hair loss due to scratching, and secondary skin irritations. Ticks can transmit diseases; the most common are Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis. If your bulldog is bitten or stung, remove the stinger and watch the site for any allergic reaction. If your bulldog shows any signs of difficulty breathing, or that his/her airway is restricted; you may have a very serious situation on hand. Keep Benadryl on hand. Heartworm is a common and life threatening problem for dogs. Have your vet check for heartworm every spring.

## Harmful Summer Foods

Do not feed dogs corn cobs. Dogs cannot digest corn cobs and they will often need to be surgically removed from their stomach. Raisins and grapes ingested in large quantities can cause kidney failure in dogs.

If you think your dog has ingested these foods, contact your veterinarian immediately.



## Water Safety

Do not allow your dog to drink from stagnant ponds. Bacteria and some forms of algae in ponds can make your pet sick. Make sure your pet has access to clean drinking water.

Water is often a major part of outdoor family activities. Usually water activities are fun, relaxing and entertaining, but tragedy can occur without proper caution.

Bulldogs are not built for swimming, with heavy chests and narrow hips, the bulldog is going to nosedive. Many bulldogs drown each year because the owner did not plan properly.

Life jackets are a must for bulldogs playing near water, and never leave your bulldog unattended!

Even though swimming can be a great form of exercise, your bully can overdo it. You should always be in a position to help your bully get out of the water. Even with a life jacket your bully is using new muscles and may tire quickly. Never take a bulldog on a boat without a life jacket.



## Traveling

Whether you are traveling by car or plane, pre-planning is essential. Does your hotel allow pets? (is there an additional fee).

Do your activities allow dogs? Are your dogs vaccinations current, microchipped, is your paperwork in order?

Is your contact information current on a tag or collar in case of separation?

Even something as simple as stopping for lunch, requires planning... your bully can not wait in the car.

When traveling by air, a crate is mandatory. Be sure to check with airlines for specific crate requirements. Many airlines will not allow flat faced breeds to travel when temperatures rise.

A crate is also the safest way for your bulldog to travel in a car. They should have their own space with plenty of ventilation, fresh water and a toy to chew on. The crate provides your bully a level of security during a family adventure. It remains constant regardless of the many rooms you may stay in, the different terrains you may traverse and the different schedules you may keep.

Be sure to carry with your plenty of water and your dog's normal diet, it may not be available in another location.

Bulldogs are very ritualistic, they love routine. A new diet could upset their stomach. Bulldogs love their family and love being with them... keep the whole family happy!

*This flyer only acts as a guide to inform you about some of the summer dangers, it is to increase your awareness of potential problems. It is not intended to, nor can it have all the answers. Please contact your veterinarian for answers.*