

## VACATION PET TIPS

Plane, Trains, and Automobiles. All are options for getting to your summer vacation destination. Which is the best method if you are bringing your four-footed family member along? Here are some Tips you should know about taking your pet on vacation.

### General Tips for Safe Travel With Pets

- Train pets to travel in their crates– Getting your pets used to their crates will make the entire traveling experience less stressful. Even when not at home, pets still view their crates as a safe haven from stressful situations.
- With a crate, size does matter– Crates should be large enough for pets to stand and turn around in comfortably. Remember to keep water inside the crate or allow for breaks every 3 hours where your pet can drink and stretch. Stainless steel water containers that hook onto wire crates are easy to use and clean up well.
- Never leave your pets unattended– Just as you would never leave a child unattended, never leave your pet alone in a car.
- Bring their health records– Take your pet's health records just in case he needs to see a veterinarian during your trip. Be sure to check with your veterinarian to see if they would recommend heartworm prevention or treatment for fleas or ticks for the area you are traveling.
- Properly identify pets with ID tags and microchips– make sure your pets have ID and current rabies tags and are micro chipped.

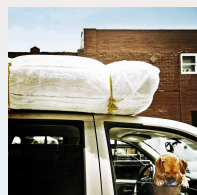
### Air Travel

- To fly or not to fly– As a rule, puppies and kittens, sick animals, animals in heat, and frail or pregnant animals should not travel by air. Animals that are “pug-nosed” like pugs, boxers and Persian cats, should not fly in the cargo area of a plane. You should also plan ahead because many airlines have restrictions regarding pets and because your pet may need a health certificate to fly.
- Tranquilizing pets is not recommended– Sedatives are not encouraged when flying because it's difficult to monitor the animal's breathing, which can be impaired by the combination of sedatives and high altitude.
- Boarding is an option– If your animal is too large to fly in the cabin with you, staying at a boarding kennel may be a safer choice. Or you could hire a licensed pet sitter to take care of you pet in the comfort of its own home.



### Car Travel

- Try to keep pets on the same “schedule”- Stop when you would normally let your animals out at home and at feeding times.
- Plan lodging ahead– Research your route, make reservations and carry a list of pet-friendly lodging along the way. Also, ask for a room on the ground floor so it is easier to walk your pet. Don't let your pet stay in the car.
- Be prepared for emergencies or delays– Keep pet dishes in your car, as well as extra water and pet food, in case of car trouble or bad weather.



Courtesy of American Humane [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

## Protect Your Pets On The 4th Of July

City of Oxnard Animal Safety would like to remind pet owners of the need to pay extra attention to the safety and comfort of their pets before, during and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. As the holiday rapidly approaches, there are a few precautions a pet owner can take to ensure that the celebration will be a happy one for both the pet and owner.

**If possible, keep your pets inside.** An animal's hearing is far more sensitive than a human's hearing. Keeping your pets indoor will help them feel protected. The sound of a radio or TV can help mute the loud noise of fireworks. If you know that our pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.

Nothing frighten animals more than sudden loud noises and sharp explosions of fireworks. **Make sure your pets are wearing identification and license tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. ID tags and licenses are your pet's ticket home.** Animals have been known to jump fences, break through windows, or break their leash in a panic to escape. It only takes a moment to check the information on your pet's collar is up to date and legible. If your pet's tags have fallen off, replace them immediately. A new license tag can be obtained at the City of Oxnard License Services, 214 South C Street, Oxnard, CA – (805) 385-7818. An animal ID tag can be purchased at most veterinarian offices, pet supply stores, or certain discount stores. Microchips, a permanent identification, are also available at your veterinarian's office.

Leave your pet at a boarding facility if you will be out of town for the holiday. Do not leave your pet indoor or outdoor unattended. It is well worth the expense and peace of mind to have your pet safely waiting for you when you return.

In the event that your pet does manage to escape, check the animal care centers and shelters in surrounding areas. Post signs in your neighborhood with a photo of your pet. Remember your pet was frightened and may have fled beyond its normal, familiar territory. Place ads in local newspapers – most will advertise at no charge. The Ventura County Animal Shelter is located at 600 Aviation Dr, Camarillo, CA – (805) 388-4341.

July 5<sup>th</sup> is the busiest day of the year at animal shelters nationwide. Please don't let your pet become a statistic.

### CHAINING OR TETHERING DOGS

More people are learning that continuous tethering is bad for dogs. As pack animals, dogs have been bred for thousands of years to form a strong attachment to a human family. An otherwise friendly and happy dog, when kept continually chained and isolated, often becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious, and aggressive. In fact, studies show that chained dogs are much more likely to bite than unchained dogs. In addition, chained dogs may unintentionally hang themselves if they are tethered too close to a fence and attempt to jump it. Chained dogs are also subject to attacks by other animals and cruel humans.



Tethering is dangerous to dogs since a chained animal may suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans, stinging bites from insects and in the worst cases, attacks by other animals. Tethered dogs suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care, and extreme temperatures. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. What's more, because their often neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection.

The following exemptions are provided

- A person may tether, fasten, chain or tie a dog for up to three hours while completing a temporary task.
- Dogs may be restrained with a running line, pulley, or trolley system (but not in conjunction with a choke or pinch collar).

Please be a responsible pet owner and abide by the law. Violators of this law may be guilty of an infraction (punishable upon conviction by a fine of \$ 250) or a misdemeanor (punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 or imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months).

## MARINE LIFE



For the next several months there will be a number of marine mammals beaching themselves along the shoreline. Many of these animals are unfortunate victims of a naturally occurring Domoic Acid poisoning event. These animals are protected by and under the strict jurisdiction of the Commerce Department, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Marine Fisheries Service. While this is unpleasant to observe, this is an annual occurring event.

If you encounter a live, but sick or injured beached marine mammal, DO NOT TOUCH OR IN ANY WAY BOTHER IT. Keep children and pets away and report the location to the Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Institute at (805) 567-1505. Federal guidelines dictate the amount of time that beached mammals must be left alone and the amount of intervention that they are allowed to make depending upon a number of variables. Animal Safety is not authorized to handle sick or injured sea mammals.

**To report dead marine life contact the Parks Department at 805-385-7950.**

## Advice from Jose, Clinic Manager Mercy Crusade Spay & Neuter Clinic



Hi to all readers!

Summer is the perfect time for a barbeque, but what you serve may be poisonous to pets. Please keep your pets in mind when you all gather together for summer events. Do not feed your pets table food, scraps, chicken bones and greasy food. Keep them away from trash bags and trash cans too. By doing this will help your pets avoid getting pancreatitis, perforation of the intestines and food poisoning.

Symptoms of acute form of pancreatitis in dogs are abdominal pain, dehydration, not eating, depression, abdominal distention, vomiting, diarrhea, and yellow and greasy stool. An expensive trip to the veterinary clinics will require a physical exam, laboratory exams, and if the vomiting is too severe may require treatment of IV fluids therapy and antibiotics. Some pets may have to stay on special diets for the rest of their lives.

My advice to all of you is to keep your pets away from people's food and trash cans to avoid them from getting sick!



CITY OF OXNARD

## ANIMAL SAFETY INFO4YOU

By Lisa Jenkins, Sr. Animal Safety Officer

Volume 4, July 2010



Hot! Hot! Hot!  
Summer is here!

## HELP PETS KEEP THEIR COOL DURING HOT SUMMER MONTHS

- \* In hot-humid weather, don't force your pet to get exercise after a meal. Always exercise your pet in the cool of the morning or evening.
- \* In extreme hot weather, don't leave your pet standing on the hot pavement, and keep walks to a minimum. Your pet is much closer to the ground and his body can heat up quickly.

- \* Never take your pet on an outing unless you can provide a shady spot to rest and plenty of fresh water to drink.

- \* Always provide plenty of shade for your pets that stay outside of the house. A properly constructed doghouse serves best.

- \* Bring your pet inside during the heat of the day and let them rest in a cool part of the house.

- \* Be sensitive to the needs of older and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs (especially Bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos and Shih Tzus) and those with heart and lung disease should be kept indoors in air-conditioning as much as possible.

- \* A clean coat can help prevent summer skin problems, so keep your dog and cat well groomed. If your pet sports a heavy coat, shaving your dog's hair to a 1-inch length will help prevent overheating. Do not shave your dog's hair down to the skin; this robs him of protection from the sun.

- \* A cat should be brushed frequently to keep its coat tangle-free.

On hot days, your pet is safer at home! To report an animal in distress, call Animal Safety Service Line at **(805) 385-7786**.



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### Upcoming Events

#### FREE Spay Day

July 30, 2010

Provided by

The Herman Bennett Foundation

Appointment is limited

Please call (805) 646-6505

#### Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics

August 3, 2010

Port Hueneme Fire Station

304 Second St, Port Hueneme

Starts at 7pm

August 24, 2010

Meiners Oaks Fire Station

466 La Luna, Meiners Oaks

Starts at 7pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

To report stray dogs in neighborhood,  
dead animals and animal complaints  
(805) 385-7786

For animal bite assistance  
Ventura County Animal Regulation  
600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo CA  
(805) 388-4341

To purchase a license  
Low Cost Vaccination Clinics  
& Spay and Neuter Vouchers  
License Services  
Oxnard Service Center  
214 South C Street, Oxnard, CA  
(805) 385-7818

Animal Safety—Administrative Office  
Oxnard Police Department  
305 West Third Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 385-7640

#### NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Low Cost Spay and Neuter Services  
Low Cost Vaccines  
Mercy Crusade's  
Spay and Neuter Clinic  
2252 Craig Dr  
Oxnard, CA 93036  
(805) 278-4433  
vcspayneuter@aol.com

Financial Contributions for Affordable  
Spaying & Neutering Programs  
The Herman Bennett Foundation  
194 Camino Ruiz  
Camarillo, CA 93012  
(805) 445-7171  
[www.hermanbennettfoundation.org](http://www.hermanbennettfoundation.org)

If you have any concerns or issues,  
we are just a phone call away.



City of Oxnard  
"The City that Cares"

ANIMAL SAFETY  
Helping animals in your  
neighborhood

### MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to promote  
and protect the health,  
safety and welfare of pets  
and people in Oxnard."

Save Lives  
Spay & Neuter

We are on the web!  
[www.oxnardpd.gov](http://www.oxnardpd.gov)