



Welcome To The First Issue Of The VMRC Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the Autauga/Prattville Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC) Newsletter. In addition to our CERT and MRC newsletters, we are now publishing a newsletter dedicated to VMRC and the topics that are important to the welfare of animals in and around our community.

We hope that you will find this newsletter to be informative and useful in providing tips,

emergency preparedness, training and general care of our pets and animals during disasters, severe weather conditions and other emergency and non-emergency situations.

We welcome any ideas, suggestions, stories, events, items of interest, etc., to add into the VMRC Newsletter. Thank you all and please let us know what you think.

Tracy Savage-Barron, Editor

Protecting Pets In An Emergency

By: Tracy Savage-Barron

..... BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

<p>GET A RESCUE ALERT STICKER</p> <p>These stickers, placed on a front-facing window, will alert rescue workers of the presence of pets inside your home.</p>	<p>ARRANGE A SAFE HAVEN</p> <p>Arrange a place for pets to stay if you evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home. If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for them!</p>	<p>MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT</p> <p>Have your kit made and keep it in a safe location near your front door for easy access.</p>	<p>KEEP IDENTIFICATION ON YOUR PET</p> <p>Keep up-to-date license and contact info on your pet at all times. Consider having pets microchipped.</p>
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Be sure to make plans to ensure your pet's safety before, during, and after an emergency. As with any emergency, preparation is the key.

If you are like me, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire, flood, tornado or terrorist attack, depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, may include, assembling an animal emergency supply kit, developing a pet care buddy system and checking with local authorities on tips for pet safety.

Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need

to make plans in advance for your pets. If you decide to evacuate...DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!! Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Make sure you have current identification for your pets and that it is kept with the emergency supply kit. Photos, list of medications, allergies, vaccination records, or any other pertinent information or specialized care concerning your pet(s). Microchipping is a great way to identify and locate your pet in case of an emergency.

Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

Inside this issue:

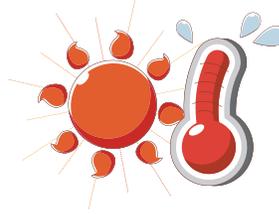
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Warm Weather And The Potential Risks To Our Pets

By: Tracy Savage-Barron



When the weather heats up, so does the potential threat and risks to our pets. The summer heat, humidity and potential power outages from storms can take a toll on our four-legged friends.

To ensure that our pets stay safe this season make sure they have a cool, well-ventilated area with plenty of extra water on hand. If you have outdoor animals, make sure they have a shady area to escape the blazing heat and to take rest, and again, make sure they have plenty of water for hydration. If at all possible, bring them inside.

Some other tips for providing a safe summer for your pet is to practice basic safety precautions. Limit exercise on hot days, remember how hot pavement and hot sand can burn, blister and cause pain to their feet and foot pads, and watch for signs of heatstroke. And, though we think of sunburn as something uniquely human, animals can actually get sunburned as well. Be prepared for summertime storms, power outages and the potential dangers and how they can affect your pet. Be aware of warm weather pests such as ants, bees, wasps, snakes, ticks and fleas.

And, I, personally, can't stress this enough...

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER leave your pet unattended in a vehicle!!! Not even for a minute!! Not even with the windows rolled down, car running and the air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous, even fatal, levels and, with extreme heat, lethal levels can happen in a very short period of time.



Just as we need to stay safe, cool and hydrated during the summer heat, so do our pets. A good rule of thumb is, if it's too hot for us... it's too hot for them. Let's make this summer a safe one for all our four-legged friends.

HEAT PET SAFETY!

www.DVMmultimedia.com | DVMmultimedia

<p>SHADE & WATER Protect your pets from the sun's rays and keep them hydrated.</p>	<p>NO CARS Never leave a pet in the car, not even with the window cracked.</p>	<p>HEAT STROKE Excessive panting, discolored gums, and mobility problems are signs. Seek veterinary attention immediately!</p>
<p>NO ASPHALT If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws.</p>	<p>LIMIT EXERCISE Don't let playful pets over exert themselves in the heat.</p>	

VEHICLE TEMPERATURE

OUTSIDE TEMP (F)	INSIDE TEMP (F)	
	10 MINS	30 MINS
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

Heatstroke can be deadly.

Share this image to keep cats safe!

STOP

Hot Asphalt Awareness

Press the back of your hand firmly against the asphalt for 7 seconds to verify it will be comfortable for your dog.

When the air temperature is this, asphalt has been measured at this. *	
Air Temperature	Asphalt Temperature
77° -	125°
86° -	135°
87° -	143°

*These temperature correlations represent worst scenario variables: direct sun, no wind, very low humidity, and high radiant energy.

At 125° F, skin destruction can occur in 60 seconds. An egg can fry in 5 minutes at 131° F.

Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. Journal of the American Medical Association, 214 (11), 2025-2027.



Animals Do Their Share of Work In The U.S. Military (Karen Workman; The Berkshire Eagle 3/13/13.)



With us just recently celebrating Memorial Day and the 4th of July, we thought we would share ways that animals are currently working in the different U.S. Armed Forces and the roles they are playing.

(The information was taken from an article done by Karen Workman for The Berkshire Eagle 3/13/13).



1. Dogs

Dogs are used by both the Army and the Marine Corps in a variety of roles, primarily detection-based jobs. "They deploy with their handler and are probably the best detection for IEDs or for finding bad guys hiding to ambush; they're directly responsible for saving lives," said Colleen McGee of the public affairs office for the Army.



2. Pack Mules

The Marine Corps uses pack mules "in Afghanistan to transport supplies," said Capt. Eric Flanagan. Not exactly a specialized skill, but definitely a helpful one.

3. Horses

Their role, however, is limited. The Christian Science Monitor reports that the Caisson Platoon keeps horses for use in a variety of ceremonial activities, and that the Army keeps another batch of horses near Fort Bragg, N.C., to help train Special Forces troops.



4. California sea lions

Sea lions are used by the Navy to mark and retrieve objects from the ocean and can be trained to protect ports from swimmer attacks, locate potentially dangerous sea mines and locate and attach recovery hardware to expensive exercise and training targets, according to the Navy.



5. Bottlenose dolphins

Dolphins are used for the same tasks that sea lions are employed for — marking and retrieving objects, protecting ports from swimmer attacks, locating sea mines and locating and attaching recovery hardware to expensive exercise and training targets.

These are just a few ways that animals work and help our military in preserving and keeping our country and citizens safe.



Pet Emergency Preparedness—A Personal Perspective

By: Alice B. Floyd, RN, BSN, COHN-S

In 2005, just a few days after Hurricane Katrina hit, I interviewed for a position with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Center for Emergency Preparedness. It took a few weeks to get through the hiring process. So, while waiting to start my new job, I followed the hurricane response, particularly everything that was being done to help animals. At that time I was unaware of the orchestrated events that are required to respond to a disaster of that magnitude. My heart was broken for the animals shown walking and swimming in the contaminated flood waters. I still have not forgotten the photos of the little boy in New Orleans who was put on a bus to evacuate and made to leave his little dog behind. My heart broke for those who were looking for their animals, those who knew that the animals which were left behind were likely starving or dead, and for the people who stayed behind with their pets, many of whom died.

I watched several documentaries that showed various animal care groups that deployed to Louisiana to help care for the numerous animals that were lost, injured, found, stolen, or displaced because of the storm. What those groups did, in my opinion, was incredible. Hurricane Katrina brought to light the need to plan for and recognize the importance of pets as they relate to disaster planning and response.

The day after the February 2008 tornado came through Prattville, the Prattville/Autauga Humane Shelter was extremely busy. People were calling in to report missing pet(s) and asking if they had been brought to the shelter. I was on the humane society's board of directors at that time and realized that as a community, we needed to begin planning for the next emergency and addressing issues animal sheltering. The humane society entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Autauga County Emergency Management to prepare for this aspect of emergency response.

After the April 27, 2011 severe weather ravaged the state, social media played an important role in reuniting lost animals with their owners. Several Facebook pages were started to help animals be reunited with their families. I still follow one group whose mission eventually changed from the storm response to day to day reunification. Within 24 hours of the April 28, 2014 storms, social media again helped get the word out about lost animals that needed to be reunited with their owners.

Getting humans to put together an emergency preparedness plan is difficult. Getting them to put together a plan for their pets is even harder. To help with this initiative, ADPH developed a Get - 10 for Pets program. Pet owners are encouraged to make an emergency kit for pets that contains: water, food, medicines, collar(s) with ID tag and leash, first aid kit, carrier/crate, pictures of you and your pet together, familiar items, important records and sanitation items.

Some planning organizations indicate pet owners should plan with local animal shelters. I am familiar with the local animal shelters and know that they are at or over capacity most days so I suggest pet owners plan with their veterinarian, local kennels and/or boarding facilities for emergency shelter needs. If a pet owner has to evacuate and they cannot board their pet(s), they should look for pet friendly hotels. Whether a pet owner shelters in place or evacuates, pet(s) depend on their humans to have a good emergency plan.

For more information on pet preparedness check out the following links:

<http://www.adph.org/get10/Default.asp?id=3664>

<http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals>

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html

Alice B. Floyd, RN, BSN, COHN-S

Disaster Preparation for Pets





**Autauga/Prattville
Veterinary Medical Reserve
Corps**

Autauga County EMA
826 Gillespie Street
Prattville, AL 36067

Phone: 334-361-3758
Email:
autaugaprattvillemrc1@gmail.com



**Coming SOON!!!
Look for us and LIKE us
on Facebook!!**



The AP VMRC (Autauga Prattville Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps) is a team off of the AP MRC (Autauga Prattville Medical Reserve Corps) and is under it's umbrella. However the Autauga County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) is the organizing sponsor. This team will help in time of disaster/emergency with the following but not limited to, helping families find lost pets, assist in gathering any stray or displaced pets/animals, care of the pets/animals during and after the disaster/emergency and assist veterinary professionals with any medical/first aid.

There are several areas that we are currently working on to help strengthen this team and hope to have some of them finalized by the next AP VMRC newsletter to be able to share with you. However, if you are interested in joining this team please contact us at the Autauga County EMA office.



Up Close and Personal– Meet Our Member's Pets

(If you have a pet that you would like featured in our newsletter, please send pics and info to us at apcertnewsletter@gmail.com, we look forward to hearing from you.)

Meet Henry and Isis. They are Bonnie Temple's pet Leopard geckos. Mr. Henry is about 9 years old and he has full tail. Ms. Isis is about 4-5 years and she has a regenerating tail. Leopard geckos live about 10 years and are ground dwellers.

