



Countryside Mews

Summer 2016 Edition

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Hello Sunshine!

We love summer and it's a great time of year to get outside with our pets and explore the island.

Hot temperatures and humid weather can come with health risks to animals.

Have a read through our newsletter and make sure to keep your pets cool and safe this summer.

Enjoy the sun!!

Dr. Braaten, Andrii,
Shantyll and Danni

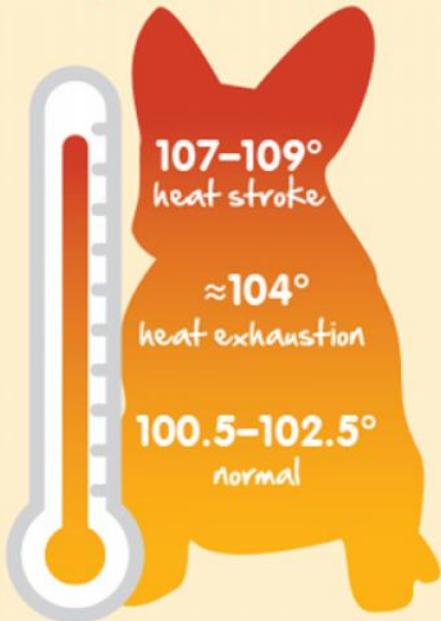
If you see a dog in a hot car

- ❖ **Call Victoria Animal Control**
250-414-0233
- ❖ Alert the management of the business
- ❖ Record information about the vehicle
- ❖ Stay with the dog until help arrives



heat stroke in dogs

a dog's body temperature



signs of heat stroke:

- 🚫 Heavy panting, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst
- 🚫 Bright red tongue and mucus membranes, which turn grey as shock sets in
- 🚫 Thick saliva, drooling, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- 🚫 Unsteadiness and staggering
- 🚫 Lethargy

⚠ By the time the signs of heat stroke are visible, it's often too late.

some dogs are more at risk



⚠ SHORT-NOSED



⚠ LONG-HAIRED



⚠ YOUNG

the dangers of heat stroke



**104°
body temp.**



**>15mins
of suffering**



- ✓ Collapse
- ✓ Seizures
- ✓ Coma
- ✓ Organ failure
- ✓ Death

Lake “Life”-Blue-green Algae (Cyanobacteria)

Cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) are microscopic bacteria found in freshwater lakes, streams and ponds. They can produce toxins that affect people, livestock and pets that swim in and drink from algae-contaminated water. Blue-green algae grow and colonize to form “blooms” that give the water a blue-green appearance. Because the algae float, they may be blown by the wind into thick, concentrated mats near the shore thus making them easily accessible to livestock, pets and people.

Algae concentrations vary throughout the year, but are most abundant during periods of hot weather in mid-to late-summer months. While most blue-green algae blooms do not produce toxins, it is not possible to determine the presence of toxins without testing. Thus, all blooms should be considered potentially toxic. Very small exposures, such as a few small mouthfuls of algae-contaminated water, may result in fatal poisoning. Clinical signs of poisoning are dependant on the toxin involved; Microcystins can result in liver damage or failure.

If you suspect that your dog may have been exposed to this toxic bacteria contact your veterinarian immediately. Immediate treatment is necessary to help treat this quick-acting, potentially fatal poison. Treatment includes anti-seizure medication, oxygen, and aggressive care by your veterinarian.

Common signs to watch for:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Bloody or black, tarry stool
- Pale mucous membranes
- Jaundice
- Seizures
- Disorientation
- Coma
- Shock
- Excessive secretions (e.g salivation, excessive eye moisture)
- Neurologic signs (including muscle tremors, muscle rigidity, paralysis)
- Blue discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes
- Difficulty breathing



Blue green algae

Preventative Joint Care

When the supply of cartilage is inadequate for the needs of the joint, bone rubs against bone, producing pain and lack of mobility. Proper nourishment of the cartilage tissue is important at all stages of life, not just when visible signs of joint degeneration appear. Many factors can contribute to the net loss of cartilage in a pet's joints. Hip dysplasia and osteochondrosis top the list of hereditary conditions. Injuries to the joint as a result of a dislocation, torn ligaments may cause cartilage deterioration. Inflammatory and degenerative joint diseases can affect pets of all ages. Osteoarthritis has become one of the most frequently diagnosed health problems in older and highly active mature dogs. The hips, elbows and knees tend to be the most common problem spots but they almost never show signs until a lot of damage has already been done. Typical signs are reluctance to climb stairs, trouble getting up after sleeping, and reluctance to exercise. Unfortunately you can't reverse joint disease but you can slow down the progression and often prevent some of the worst problems.

Things to do to help prevent or manage joint disease:

- Add a Glucosamine/Chondroitin supplement to your pets diet.
- Feed a joint specific diet.
- Maintain your pets ideal body weight.
- Ask us about Cartrophen injections, a prescription that is given by subcutaneous injection that works to help stop the destructive enzymes that break down cartilage and stimulate the body's production of cartilage.
- Prevent joint injury, arthritis almost always develops as a result of injury earlier in life. Over exercise, jumping to high, and running to hard before bones and joints have time to mature can injure the joints.
- Keep pets moving, older pets are often affected by arthritis more. When it hurts to move they stop wanting to exercise so they tend to gain weight which puts more stress on the joints. Exercise also "feeds" the joints by pumping natural lubrication into the area. Gentle exercise keeps joints limber and healthy, helps to slim down pudgy pets, and just helps them feel better.

