



Deborah Cowan, DVM Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove

Doctor Deborah Cowan graduated from NCSU-CVM in 1993. She has been working with Exotic animals since 1982 when she attended North Carolina A&T University for her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Lab Animal Science. She was part of the group that started the Wildlife Rehabilitation League in 1978. In addition, Doctor Cowan has done a month long internship at Texas A&M, Galveston campus in Fish Medicine.



imagine protecting all your pets this summer

Summer!

Well, May is finally here and it's time to start going on vacation. It's going to get warmer and all of us will have to be wary of UV rays. Yes, that goes for pets also. The sun can cause skin cancer in animals just like it does for humans.

Light colored dogs, cats, horses...well, you get the picture, are as susceptible to the burn and skin trauma of UV as we are. Dogs that love to lay in the sun can get some pretty bad issues with skin cancer, the belly area is often thin skinned without much fur. White faced animals can get major issues, particularly around the nose area where there is very little fur.

What can you do? Do not cut their hair, this is a protection for their skin. It actually helps to keep them cooler. You can put up a nice plastic pool for them. Many dogs love to swim and wallow, just try to keep it in the shade.

You can use SPF 50, waterproof, on their noses and areas with no hair, particularly if you are at the lake, the beach or hiking. Also make sure you take umbrellas and lots of water for them. Remember their body temperature is higher than ours. They can suffer from heat stroke much faster than we will, and often owners can't tell that their pet is too hot until it is too late.

If you like to do a lot of hiking and outdoors activity, either do it early 7-10am or later 4-9pm, that way the UV rays are not at their most potent.

You should not lay out in the sun either, but if that is your plan, do not take your pet with you. They do not need that much and that strong a dose of sunlight.

If you are starting to move your birds, reptiles or rabbits outdoors, make sure that there is plenty of shade at all times of the

What a Wonderful Time of Year, But be Aware of the Hazards...

day. Check the area out in the morning, middle part of the day and in the afternoon. Sometimes we do not notice heavy sunlight if you are not watching during a 24 hour period. Always make sure they have plenty of water, and particularly for rabbits that do not like it hot, maybe a fan to ensure that there is always a breeze.

Don't forget, they count on us to take care of them and ensure their safety.

I know I do not need to remind everyone of this, but **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS IN THE CAR...** the temperature rises between 10-20 degrees, **IT WILL KILL YOUR PET...** also it is against the law.

Anyhow, have a great spring and summer and as always keep track of your pets.

If you need a place to leave them for the day, the weekend or the week, we provide both day care and boarding. Call us and enroll your baby in Summer Camp now...

Animal Hospital of Walnut Cove



We treat you and your pets like family!

**1020 Alamo Drive
Walnut Cove, NC**

Office Hrs. - Mon, Thur 7-8,
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