

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

It is time for water and fun. Whether it is a trip to the Lake Hayward Beach, a picnic by the river, an outing on a pontoon, canoeing, kayaking or skipping stones on the shoreline – it is tempting to take your pets.

Over the past years, all of our dogs have loved being on the pontoon. Some of our dogs loved to play in the water and others preferred not to get their feet wet. Our dog Frankie was fascinated with the fish spawning under our pier. None of the dogs ever tried to jump out of the pontoon unless we were docked at Angler Haven and they wanted to visit their dogs.

Our dog 'Chip' who is a little Yorkie/Terrier mix loves to be on the pontoon. He is fearless, he loves to have the wind blowing on him and he monitors our surroundings. His behavior is 'perfect' on the pontoon. Chip loves to ride in the car and he wants to go to work with me. So.....my husband Mike, who loves to fish, thought it would be good for Chip, if he took him on his boat fishing. Whether this is a good idea or not, is still being reviewed. Chip made it through the outing, Mike caught fish and both returned safe and sound. Did Chip have fun? Maybe not – he spent his time under the deck shelf, under Mike's chair or hiding in the shelf by the steering wheel. Mike introduced him to a couple of fish that he released and had treats and water. Chip did not appear to give the experience a thumbs up but Mike continues to try.

This adventure led me to look up articles about dogs and fishing. The following tips were found on boats.com. There were other articles that talked about fly fishing with dogs too.

Tonight we are taking both Chip and our new dog Sonny out on the pontoon. Both will have on their lifejackets.

1. Bring plenty of fresh water. Dogs can't perspire, and they'll need to lap up lots of H₂O in order to stay cool, especially when the sun is blazing.
2. Let him off the leash—if you trust him not to take a flying leap. Usually dogs won't jump from a boat that's moving (except in the case of a poorly trained hunting dog, or an inexperienced puppy), and he'll be curious, and want to move around a lot. Note, however, that when the boat isn't moving plenty of dogs will take an unexpected plunge.
3. Bring a piece of indoor-outdoor carpet. Lay it in the cockpit, and your dog will be able to keep a solid footing. Fiberglass nonskid decks may provide a secure footing to you and I, but they can be quite slippery to a dog's paws.
4. Don't cut bait, and leave it sitting out. Do so, and there's a good chance it'll get gobbled up. Yuch—worm breath!
5. Don't leave lures swinging from fishing rod tips. A dangling temptation with hooks is NOT what you want your pup to go chasing after.
6. Make sure the dog has a chance to relieve himself, before you leave the dock. Nothing ruins a trip on the boat like having to go... and being unable to!
7. Be prepared to turn around on rough days. Yes, dogs can get seasick, too. It's not as common as it is with people, but it does happen. Don't plan on a long day in rough waters until you've had a chance to expose your dog to rocking and rolling, and you know for a fact that he doesn't get green when the waves kick up.

8. Take plenty of treats. Positive reinforcement is always the best way to get a pooch to do your bidding. With a handful of treats, you can get him to stay put when you're occupied with important tasks, like setting the anchor or tying up lines.
9. Consider buying a dog vest. These provide floatation, and neoprene models also provide some warmth if you're boating in cold waters and chilly air. This is especially important for retrievers, which almost always find a way to get wet sooner or later. In fact, jumping off the dock before you even shove off is a distinct hazard with this breed!
10. Use a ramp or carry your dog onto the boat, if it sits well below dock level. Otherwise there's a fair chance your dog will try to jump onboard, and possibly injure himself. Boarding and disembarking should always be controlled, planned motions.

I am pretty sure Sonny will love the pontoon – he seems to love everything, except being left alone – but we are working on that.

Notes: Thank you to Boulder Lodge for their donation from the Cardboard Boat Races!

Saturdays – If you can help out at either the shelter as an office person or at the Thrift Shop as a cashier on Saturdays. Saturdays are really hard to fill – you don't have to commit to all Saturdays. Go to our website and fill out the volunteer application or pick one up at either site.

Dates to Save –

August 5 – NHS Tag Day – volunteers are needed – leave your name at 715-634-5394.

August 30 – Bark and Roll with the Been There Done That Band at the Sawmill Saloon beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is our big event for the summer. Tickets are now on sale – at NHS Thrift shop, NHS Shelter, Art Beat of Hayward and Redbery Books in Cable.