

## Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

This morning I began my day doing one of my favorite things. Sitting on the deck with a cup of coffee talking to Mike. He asked what I was up to today and part of the list I gave him was ‘write my NHS article’. Mike was checking his weather app on his phone, checking for good fishing days. He told me that this coming Tuesday is supposed to be 91 degrees and suggested I write about animals and summer heat. This is a concern that repeats itself each summer and I have written about it before. So here it is.

Never leave your pet alone in a parked vehicle in the summer! This seems like something everyone would know! But we need to check ourselves. People get busy, rushed, impatient - they need to make one more ‘stop’. They have the dog with them and maybe a child. Their hurried self is saying “I will hurry in and be really quick!” But you see a friend and stop to chat. The following is put out by the ASPCA for us to share with our community of readers.

Even if it’s just for a moment, and even if the windows are cracked—it is never safe to leave an animal in a parked vehicle alone. Don’t let an excuse cost an animal their life. Not only can leaving an animal in a hot car lead to fatal heat stroke, it is illegal in several states! Keep in mind that if it is 70 degrees outside it will be 90 degrees in the car or if it is 90 degrees outside it will be 110 degrees in the car.

As of May 2018, 28 states have laws concerning companion animals left unattended in parked vehicles under dangerous conditions, such as intense weather conditions. Wisconsin is one of the 28 states. Some of these laws involve legal action against the vehicle owner, while other laws provide immunity to those who may use forcible means—such as smashing a window—to rescue a vulnerable animal in a car. **Hats off to our area Animal Control Officers and local law enforcement officers. When called about an animal in distress or danger, they are responsive and caring**

Heat isn’t just a threat in cars. Pet owners want to have their pets be part of their summer activities. To prevent your pet from overheating, follow this additional advice:

Heat stroke can be a problem for our pets. Symptoms of overheating in pets can include: 1. Excessive panting or difficulty breathing, 2. Increased heart and respiratory rate, 3. Drooling, 4. Mild weakness, 5. Stupor, 6. Collapse

Symptoms can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees.

You’ll want to keep an eye out for these signs of distress, but you’ll also want to ensure that your pet is properly hydrated at all times. Make sure you give your pets plenty of fresh, clean water when it’s hot or humid outdoors. Ensure that your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-

exercise them and use your best judgment to keep them indoors when it's extremely hot. Never let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during peak daytime hours to a minimum.

Also keep in mind that animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively as others. These pets, along with elderly and overweight animals, as well as those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

*Haircuts can be helpful also.* Feel free to trim longer hair on your pets, but never shave them down to the skin. The layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat. Be sure that any sunscreen or insect repellent product you use on your pets is labeled specifically for pets.

It is the responsibility of pet owners to do the right thing for our pets – not what is easiest for us

Dates to save:

June 15 Bingo at Red Schoolhouse Wines – Stone Lake 6 p.m.

June 16 – NHS Thrift Shop Volunteer gathering – Out of the Woods Winery 3:30 p.m. – appetizers will be served, cash bar, bring a friend.

July 2 – Boulder Lodge Cardboard Boat Races and Picnic for NHS – Noon

July 2 – “Camp Fire Confessions” by Kristine Ochu - book signing – all proceeds go to NHS