



## **Keep pets safe during the summertime with tips on warm weather advisories from Operation Kindness**

*The North Texas animal welfare organization suggests indoor enrichment activities to keep pets safe from heat*

CARROLLTON, Texas (May 29, 2024) – Summer may seem like an ideal time to get pets outdoors, but rising temperatures in Texas this time of year can pose serious risks. North Texas animal welfare non-profit [Operation Kindness](#) has tips to keep pets cool, hydrated and mentally stimulated during the summer months.

"At Operation Kindness, we believe that keeping pets safe and engaged during the summer is essential for their well-being," said Operation Kindness CEO Ed Jamison. "By following these tips and incorporating fun enrichment activities, pet owners can ensure their animals enjoy a happy and healthy summer."

### **Heat Protection**

**Shade and Shelter:** Providing shaded areas and never leaving pets in parked cars helps prevent overheating.

**Avoid Hot Pavement:** Walking pets in the early morning or late evening helps avoid burning their paws on hot pavement.

**Heatstroke Awareness:** Recognizing signs like excessive panting, drooling, lethargy and collapse is essential. Moving pets to a cool area and contacting a vet immediately if heatstroke is suspected can save lives.

### **Keeping Pets Hydrated throughout the Summer**

Keeping water bowls filled and accessible ensures pets stay hydrated. When outside, bringing a water bottle for pets helps maintain their hydration. Adding ice, broth or pet-safe liquids to water can make it more enticing, if approved by a veterinarian. Adding wet food to your pet's diet can also provide additional hydration.

### **Fun in the Water**

Water activities are great for keeping pets cool. Monitoring pets while they play in pools or lakes and using life jackets for safety in deeper water is important. Avoiding untreated water sources protects pets from harmful bacteria. Cooling mats are another excellent

option for hot days. The mats are made of a material that absorbs a pet's body heat and allows it to dissipate more easily.

### **Leaving Pets at Home**

It is vital to never leave pets in parked vehicles, as temperatures can rise dangerously fast. If leaving pets in the car is unavoidable, ensuring they are with a human and the air conditioning is on helps prevent overheating.

### **Summer Pet Enrichment**

Pet enrichment involves activities that stimulate a pet's mind and body, reducing stress and improving overall health. Here are some summer enrichment ideas to try at home:

#### ***For Dogs***

**Wading Pools:** Setting up a small pool in the backyard provides a refreshing playtime.

**Pupsicles:** Freezing a mix of peanut butter, yogurt and deli meat makes for a cool treat. Always check first with a veterinarian before altering a pet's diet.

**Muffin Tin Puzzles:** Hiding treats in a muffin tin covered with tennis balls engages dogs' brains and senses while they sniff out the treats.

**Bottle Crinklers:** Filling a plastic bottle with kibble and covering it with a sock offers auditory stimulation.

**Towel Sushi Rolls:** Rolling treats in a towel allows dogs to use their noses to unroll and find the goodies inside.

#### ***For Cats***

**'Catcuterie' Boards:** Freezing wet food and catnip on mini frisbees provides a prolonged treat.

**Frozen Treat Caps:** Filling and freezing plastic bottle caps with wet food offers a cool, lickable treat.

**Toilet Paper Roll Treats:** Filling rolls with dry treats and closing the ends encourages cats to paw and sniff to get the treats out, which is great for indoor play.

By following these tips and incorporating enrichment activities, pet owners can ensure a safe, happy and stimulating summer for their furry friends. With these tips in mind, there are many ways to enjoy the summer season while keeping pets safe and healthy.

*Interviews can be arranged by request. B-roll can be found [here](#).*

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### **About Operation Kindness**

Operation Kindness, a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, operates a lifesaving animal shelter and programs to assist people and pets. Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is a pioneer in Texas for assisting animals in need of veterinary care, companionship and, most of all, a home.

In addition to pet adoptions and lifesaving medical care, Operation Kindness' programs provide foster care for vulnerable animals, behavior and training support for pet parents, affordable veterinary services for community pets, a pet food pantry, volunteer opportunities and professional training. To learn more about Operation Kindness, please visit their website at [WWW.OPERATIONKINDNESS.ORG](http://WWW.OPERATIONKINDNESS.ORG).

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