

# New Members Welcome!

If you want to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

## Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

Financial year to October 2025

Member No:.....

Name (s).....

Address .....

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email (Please print).....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

☐ \$20.00 Single Membership or ☐ \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

*You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.*

Signed: ..... Date: \_ / \_ / \_

Enquiries to: 14 Pages Road, Grove, Tas 7109  
Ph: 0424 504 043 or email: [huondogwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:huondogwalkers@gmail.com)

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc.

Cash/Cheque/ EFT      BSB – 633000    Account No – 144419819

Reference is your surname: \_\_\_\_\_ or your membership number if you have one.

**Please forward this form with payment to the above address or scan and email.  
A receipt and membership card will be issued for new members.**

SSG

# SUMMER SURVIVAL GUIDE

2024/25

## ...FOR DOG OWNERS

*Tips to help you and your dog enjoy the summer and the holiday season happily and safely*

### Inside...

-  Bushfire evacuation planning
-  Snake bite information
-  Emergency Vet contacts
-  Travelling with pets
-  Off lead dog exercise areas
-  Pet friendly accommodation
- ...and more

**Prepared by the Huon Valley Dog Walking Association**  
[huondogwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:huondogwalkers@gmail.com) | [www.dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au)

# ABOUT THE HVDWA ...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs ([www.dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au)).

## The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks
- Have social walks on a regular basis
- Help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training
- Promote responsible dog ownership.

## There are lots of reasons you will want to join...

- Socialise your dog
- Explore the Valley and find out about available on-lead and off-lead walks in forest areas, beaches and strolls around the towns
- Meet other dog owners and share experiences and stories
- Participate in dog welfare initiatives and fund raising for dog charities

Best of all—it's so easy to become a member (and your dog will love you for it!)

Contact us for more information and news of our forthcoming activities

Email: [huondogwalkers@gmail.com](mailto:huondogwalkers@gmail.com)

[www.dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au)

Find us on Facebook



FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION GO TO :

[www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au) | [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) | [www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au)

Thanks go to the following people for their contributions to this article: Rebecca Bell – Manager Recreation Services, Huon Valley Council and Lisa Pohl - Community Engagement Officer, Huon Valley Council.

(Continued from page 6)

## Summer Heat Hazards

**Fleas** can also cause irritation in animals. Most animals will become itchy and scratch frequently when infested with fleas. There are a small number of animals that will be allergic to fleas. This means that one flea bite will cause the animal to have an allergic reaction. The animal does not have to be infested with fleas at the time. It is important that this animal is then regularly treated with flea treatment to prevent permanent changes to the animal's skin. Again your vet can chat in detail with you about this if necessary.

**Ticks** are always a worry at this time of year especially if you take your dog in the bush with you. Preventative treatment against ticks is the best option — your vet can advise on different options. We still recommend to check your dog daily to ensure there are no ticks and if you find one then remove it if you are comfortable removing it (ensuring you get the head), or bring your dog into your clinic and they will remove it for you. Unfortunately, paralysis tick is becoming more common in this part of the state. Presenting signs can be unsteadiness on the back legs which gradually gets worse and ascends up the body, change in bark, difficulty swallowing or breathing. Tick paralysis requires immediate treatment.

**Dr. Kim Meijer**

**Veterinary Surgeon.**





## Bushfires—Keeping your pets safe

There is an increasing risk of bushfires this summer and we need to be prepared. We all want to keep our animals safe and ensure that they are included in our bushfire survival plans. We hope these points will help you. If fire is forecast the best and safest option is to evacuate early. Tell your friends and neighbours your plans and, if possible, take your animals to friends or relatives well outside the fire zone. Include a “safe room” in your bush fire plan and confine your pets to that early on, all ready to go, as you don’t want to be looking for them later.

### Preparation is the key so check this list:

- Have an evacuation plan.
- Have a battery operated radio and keep your phone charged.
- If your pet is small enough to carry in a carrying cage, get one and keep it in the hall ready to go.
- Familiarise your pet with its carrying cage as soon as possible.
- If your dogs have cages attach leads and muzzles, so strangers can manage them safely, as well as plastic bags for droppings.
- If your dogs are too big for a carrying cage make sure their leads, collars and muzzles are in the hall ready to go.
- Make sure your pets are microchipped and have their collars on with secure tags giving their names, contact phone numbers and registration numbers.
- Obtain a Dog Appeasement Pheromone Collar to reduce stress. Veterinary Adaptil Collars are available for dogs and local pet shops can obtain Good Behaviour Calming Collars for dogs and cats. If you can’t get a collar, Adaptil calming spray for dogs and Feliway calming spray for cats are available from the vet. Spray this in the carrier, car etc.
- Photocopy all animal identification documents, including microchip numbers, your name and emergency contact numbers, details of dietary requirements, medical records and your vet’s contact number. Attach all of these to the carrying cage or lead or place in a secure container next to the cage.
- Attach any medication your pet is on.
- Include food and water for three days, with food and water bowls, plus bedding, favourite toys and treats.
- Pack a first aid kit in case you are injured or your pet is injured or you come across a lost or stray animal which is injured. This should contain electrolytes, burn cream and bandage material.

If evacuation seems likely put all your pets in their cages in good time. Most of the above advice also relates to smaller animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs.

A similar evacuation plan would apply to horses. However, if your horses can’t be evacuated and you have to leave them, take off all rugs, halters etc., trim their manes and tails and write your phone number on their rumps (Use texta pen if you have nothing else.). With both horses and livestock make sure there is a low fire risk area, preferably with a dam, available to them and leave internal gates open for them. Don’t, however, let them get on to the road.

If an evacuation centre is opened, the TFS will advertise it through **ABC Local Radio** and the **TFS website**. The Huon Valley PCYC, located at the Huonville Recreation Ground, is the designated evacuation centre for Huon Valley residents. An area is included for dogs and small pets. The Huon Valley Council will also activate an Animal Refuge Area at the Ranelagh Showgrounds for livestock and farm animals. These areas are for short term emergency evacuation only and owners need to be essentially self-sufficient. A plan for relocating your pets with friends, relatives etc. in a safe location should be made and implemented early to avoid last minute stress and tragedy.

## Dog Exercise Areas - Huon Valley

Animal exercise areas have been declared in the Huon Valley to allow owners to exercise their dogs off the leash. The following sites have been declared “Animal Exercise Areas”. An interactive map of areas managed by the Huon Valley Council is available on the Council’s website, <http://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/services/facilities>.

- Ranelagh Showground: The area west of the unmade section of Elizabeth Street to the western boundary excluding the area utilised by the Huon and Channel Kennel Club as dog show arenas.
- Franklin Foreshore: Area south of the Franklin Bowls Club to the southern most toilet block.
- Heron Street: Dog Exercise Area: Heron St. Huonville, Fenced area next to Huonville Scout Hall.
- Shipwrights Point Regatta Ground: Channel Hwy, Port Huon. Excluding the children’s playground.
- Kent Beach: Kent Beach Rd, Dover: Foreshore area from the slipway south to Knobby Point.
- Lymington: Drip Rd (off Lymington Road), Cygnet. Beach area immediately north of Drip Point.
- Heritage Park Geeveston (shown on map as Memorial Dve): Fenced area within Heritage Park. Access via Brady St or Arve Rd.
- Cygnet Recreation Ground Exercise Area: Guys Rd, Cygnet. Fenced area north eastern corner of the ground bounded by the wood chopping area and Agnes Rivulet.
- Mickys Beach (on-lead only) and Randalls Bay: Randalls Bay Rd, Randalls Bay. No dogs are allowed in the picnic area at Randalls Bay but are allowed to the east of that area. Signs indicate the areas.

*Please remember to carry a lead, water and poo bags and always pick up after your dog.*



# Dogs Out 'n' About

## Travelling

If you're going on a road trip or visiting family and friends, you may be driving a lot further than you normally would with the dog in the car. Securing your dog with a harness or in a crate in the car is a good idea - even if you don't normally. You will need to train your dog to like the crate well in advance of any long trip.

Make sure he's safe from moving items if your car's loaded up. Ensure that you or someone in the car can see him at all times and that he can also see you. Have a window open enough to make a breeze for the dog. Remember that even when the car is moving and the aircon is on for you at the front, sun through the back window can still cause your dog to overheat. Make regular stops for toilet, water and a stretch.

- Always keep your dog on a lead unless within designated and signed off-lead areas. Even then, be sure he's under your control.
- Observe state and local dog legislations, these can be accessed online.
- You may take your dog into regional parks and State forests if on a lead, but dogs are prohibited from entering National Parks.

## Checklist

Things you should pack for your dog are:

- Regular food and treats. Don't forget a can opener if your dog eats tinned food.
- Bedding or a travel crate to sleep in. Favourite toys.
- Food and water bowls. Always carry a bottle of fresh water in case you can't find a tap.
- Collar/harness and lead.
- Grooming equipment including a towel in case your dog gets wet.
- Poo bags / pooper scooper to clean up after your dog.
- Any required medications and a first aid kit

## Hot weather

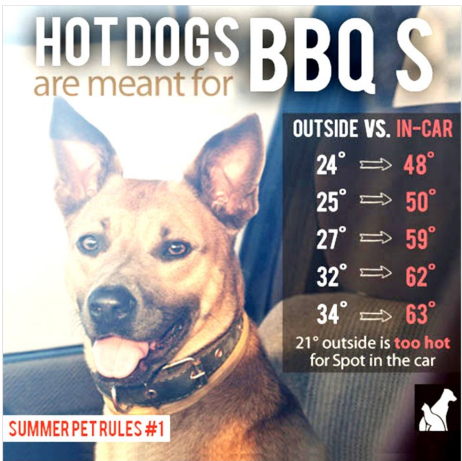
While it's important to keep the routine as much as possible, some things do need to change in hot weather. Walking, playing and training are to be avoided in the hottest part of the day. Try walking him earlier in the morning and/or later in the evening when it's cooler - it's a nice time for a stroll anyway. Hot roads and footpaths can also hurt your dog so remember that if it's uncomfortable for you to walk in bare feet, it probably will be for your dog.

When at the beach, even if it's not hot, your dog may still find it too hot, especially the older dogs. They're much closer to the hot sand and are wearing a fur coat after all! Make sure they have shade and plenty of cool drinking water. At the beach, river or anywhere outdoors, don't force the dog to swim or play if he's not willing, there's probably a reason he wants to sit quietly under a shady tree!

## Cars

**A dog can die within 30minutes in a hot car.**

Please don't leave your dog alone in a sealed car on a warm day. Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of heatstroke (See Dr. Meijer's article on page 6) and act immediately if you think your dog is suffering from heatstroke.



# A NEW FRIEND FOR FIDO THIS CHRISTMAS?



Here are a few points to consider

## Point 1

First, understand your established dog's home and life. This dog has an established place in the hierarchy in the home – eating, attention, going through the door, availability of toys, etc. All of these elements are resources. In a solo dog home, all resources are this dog's. This dog is always number one. Generally, dogs do not share well. As one veterinary behaviourist stated "Humans are the only species that wants to sit and eat together at the same time. Other species take their food and go to a private place to eat without any sharing or competition". You do not see dogs bringing their food or toys to form a circle to talk about the day as they eat or chew. In the dog world, what is mine is mine and what is yours can be mine too. When there is not clear control of these resources by the humans, then the dogs are open to compete for them. That is when trouble can erupt. One must also consider the health and age of both the established dog and the dog coming into the home as we make this mix. If you have an older dog, you may not be aware of the mild to moderate stiffness and decreased abilities of this dog. Many dogs over 20kg and over 7 years of age are experiencing mild back pain or decreased flexibility, making it more difficult to rise, move quickly, or watch out for another dog. Vision declines at about age 10. Hearing also declines at this age. If your established dog ever had any trauma that too can be affecting them. That slower gait, or lack of agility may not have been evident to you when it was the solo dog in the household. Now you add a young active dog, and the older dog may be growling, avoiding the living area or even snapping at you. Why? Low-level chronic pain is causing this dog to guard their body from touch. The dog is using aggression to prevent the young dog or you from making them move much because it hurts!

## Point 2

Second to that and just as important, do not allow any overtaking of any beds, toys, attention time or going through doorways. How do you control the dogs? Keep a lightweight leash attached to both dogs' collars to intervene early and often. This dragline allows you to quickly pull the pestering dog away, tether them and reward as you do this. I call this positive tethering – rewards for moving away and staying put on tether. The dragline is an easy tool for safe intervention. It is comfortable for the dogs and prevents grabbing collars and more agitation.

## Point 3

Third, consider the age and needs of a new dog and whether you can accommodate that. I am speaking specifically to bringing a cute puppy into a household with an adult dog. The adult dog may mentor this pup - show it how to go out the doggie door, where to potty, how to be calm at times, which would be great. Yet, lots of owners forget how much activity and attention that puppy needs. As a result this puppy could develop naughty behaviours or worse, a playful puppy getting too physical with the older dog, making aches and pains worse. Often I hear clients say, "Why doesn't the old dog just bite the pup to teach him a lesson?". That may resolve some of these behaviours, but it may also escalate into fighting. Engaging in a fight takes energy, movement and agility, which an older dog may not have. The puppy does not learn to be more controlled and polite, resulting in learning rough play and ultimately aggression. This is harmful for both the pup and the older dog. The pup is not learning good manners in this "natural way", and the older dog is subjected to chronic pain. If you get a puppy, you have to devote time to training, exercise and home manners so that puppy can smoothly fit into your family. Remember, a puppy is not really an adult until they're about 3 years old. Be realistic about your ability to commit time and focus to socialization and energy needs.

*Excerpts from an article by, Dr. Sally Foote, DVM, CFBC-IAABC.*



## Snake Bite & Pets

In the warmer months snakes become much more active. Pet owners need to be mindful of snakes & take measures to safeguard their pets from bites, as well as being aware of the symptoms of a snake bite. In warm weather, don't allow your pet to wander in thick grass or scrub where snakes could be hidden. Ensure your dog is on a leash. Snakes are generally attracted to water sources or rockeries where lizards live, so keep these areas to a minimum around your property. There are three species of land snakes in Tasmania; Tiger snakes, Lowland Copperhead snakes & White-lipped snakes. Of the three, Copperheads and Tigers are the most venomous and are responsible for the majority of snake bites in domestic pets. Snake bite is **DEADLY** to your pets

### What to do if your pet is bitten:

#### Get your pet to the vet ASAP

On the way to the vet, DO:

- If possible, phone the clinic so they can prepare for your arrival and assist you
- Remove the pet's collar
- Keep the pet quiet & calm
- If you know where your pet was bitten, immobilise the area, apply a pressure bandage &/or keep it lower than the heart.
- If there is no heartbeat or pulse, begin CPR

#### DO NOT:

- Let your pet walk; carry them if possible
- Cut the bitten area or attempt to suck the venom out of the bite
- Apply a tourniquet
- "Wait & see" if the symptoms get better; early treatment is vital to survival!



### Snake Bite Symptoms

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Loss of bladder or bowel control
- Vomiting
- Dilated pupils
- Bleeding that does not clot
- Neurological signs such as; drooling, shaking or twitching of the muscles and difficulty blinking
- Pain or distress (often shown by groaning, crying, panting etc.)
- Ascending paralysis (hind legs affected first, followed by forelegs)
- Blood in urine
- Bleeding puncture wound
- Swelling of the bitten area

If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake you should immobilise your pet & try to keep him/her as quiet as possible. It is vital that you take your pet to a vet clinic immediately. The sooner your pet is treated, the better their chances of survival.

Snake bite is **DEADLY**. Even with early treatment and antivenene therapy, only 60% of dogs will survive a snake bite. Without treatment, unfortunately most animals will die.

## Party Animals



During the year we live with our dogs in a well disciplined and streamlined routine—well, we try to! It's easy to forget that our dogs rely on the everyday regular things to keep them happy and secure like morning or afternoon walks, set meal times and bed times etc.

Come holidays and Christmas time, we often shift to a different pace and this can be stressful for the pets. Here are some reminders and tips to help you and your pooches enjoy the festive season.

**Parties and guests:** Having a party? Even if your dog loves people and knows the guests, it can be stressful. Make sure your dog is fed and walked before the guests arrive. If he sleeps inside move his bedding to a quiet place if necessary where he won't be too disturbed by noise or people walking past. Check on him at regular intervals. If the dog is up and about during the party, still keep and eye on him *especially* if there are children present. If it's feasible, you could nominate someone to supervise the smaller children around the dog if you're busy but you'll still be responsible for any mishaps! Ask your guests not to feed the dog—chilli chicken wings and blue cheese might go down well but will probably come up again later in the evening!

If you're going to someone else's party and taking your dog, make sure he's fed, walked and toileted before you go. Take his favourite toys and some bedding. As mentioned above, keep an eye on him at all times. Remember he may prefer to sleep in the peace and quiet of the car - not on a warm day of course. Check on him at regular intervals. Whether it's your party or someone else's, you may decide that the best thing is to send him on a sleepover at a doggy friend's place for the night, then you and your dog can have a pleasant evening!

**Houseguests:** Like parties, houseguests, even familiar ones, can be stressful as they break the usual routine of the home. Again, try and stick to the normal walking, feeding routine if you can.

If your dog sleeps inside, move his bedding if necessary away from guest bedrooms and toilets etc. to a place where guests won't disturb him during the night. Acquaint your guests with any doggy rules or dog only zones like special chairs. Ask guests not to feed the dog, anything on the NO! List following.

**Festive feeding:** All dogs love treats. The holidays are one big treat fest for most of us, an excuse to forget the diet—but not the dog. Dogs have a different digestive system from ours. For example, apple cores and pips contain small traces of Cyanide. The dosage in an apple core is harmless to us but can be harmful to a dog. Onions and members of the Allium family, even powdered or cooked, contain organosulfoxides (sulphurs) which can cause the red blood cells in dogs and cats to burst. So be very careful about what special items you give your dog.

Here's the NO! List:

<b>No cooked bones.</b>	<b>No dried fruit</b>
<b>No chocolate</b>	<b>No apple cores</b>
<b>No coffee or caffeine</b>	<b>No nuts of any type</b>
<b>No cake or yeast products</b>	<b>No avocado</b>
<b>No drinks other than fresh water</b>	<b>No citrus</b>
<b>No grapes or raisins</b>	<b>No onions or garlic</b>
	<b>No chips or crackers</b>
	<b>No mushrooms</b>

**Home alone:** When you need to go out and the dog will be outside make sure he has plenty of fresh water. Have at least 2 bowls placed around the yard in case one gets knocked over and make sure they're placed in a shady spot. A Kong or two filled with frozen meat stock or minced meat makes a terrific ice treat and gives him something to do. Should you need to tether your dog, ensure that he has shade all day — remember the shady spot in the morning when you leave will most likely be a sun trap when you get back (Dr. Meijer's article on the following page talks about the dangers of Heatstroke). Make sure there is cool fresh water within reach of his tether—more than one bowl is a good idea—and make them big heavy bowls if you can to reduce the chances of being knocked over. Half a brick in the bottom of a big saucepan works well.

**Finally:** Learn to read your dog's body language, know when he's stressed or anxious and everyone will have a happy and relaxing holiday.

## DEALING WITH SUMMER HEAT HAZARDS

Towards summer it's important to be able to recognize certain conditions more common in the hot weather.

### HEATSTROKE

First is heat stroke - this is an emergency for your dog. Dogs only sweat through their feet pads and panting and are not as good at dealing with hot weather as us humans.

#### Situations where dogs commonly overheat:

- Being left in the car
- Exercise in humid, hot weather
- Dogs with short snouts (Brachycephalic breeds; pugs, Pekinese etc.)
- If your dog has a heart or lung condition
- If your dog is muzzled
- Has a fever already
- Being confined with no water or shade

The first signs that your dog may be struggling are heavy panting, difficulty breathing and the tongue and mucus membranes will appear a very bright red (injected) colour. The saliva changes from a thin normal discharge to a very thickened and cloudy discharge and a dog's temperature (normal is 38-39 degrees Celsius) can reach up to 40-43. The dog will become unsteady on its feet and can sometimes begin to pass bloody diarrhoea. If untreated the mucus membranes will change from a bright red to grey and the dog will collapse; coma and death may follow.

When you notice your dog has heavy panting or bright red gums, move the dog into a cooler environment (best option is an air conditioned building). If it is a mild case, this may be enough to lower your dog's body temperature.

If it is more serious than this or this does not help, you can hose them down with cold water; applying cold packs in areas such as the armpit or groin will help cool him/her. It is advisable to take your dog to a vet at this stage as your dog may need to be put on IV fluids and monitored closely and sometimes swelling of the larynx can occur which may need to be treated/prevented.

#### The best idea is to prevent heat stroke.

##### ALWAYS

- Provide shade for your dog
- Fresh, clean water
- Call your vet if you are concerned

##### NEVER

- Leave your dog in a car, unattended with the windows up (just a few minutes can be deadly)
- Leave a dog that is experiencing heavy panting or difficulty breathing

### Allergies

During summer there are a lot of allergens in the air and, like humans, dogs can have allergies to certain plants. A common plant that irritates most dogs is wandering jew. This is a common weed and will present as a red, inflamed rash on the parts of the dog that have come into contact with the plant (i.e. armpits, groin, belly). This can be treated with shampoo and soothing cream, but if it is extremely irritating to the dog and is not clearing up, may require stronger medications.

Some dogs will show signs such as ear infections, eye infections etc. from different things in the air (i.e. Pollen) and this can be a yearly thing. It is a good idea to go and chat with your vet about this as there are lots of things that can be done and it is important to try and figure out exactly what your animal is reacting to.

(Continued on page 15)

## The snakes are awake!



The most effective and cheapest way to deal with snakes is to avoid them. Make lots of noise when out walking your dog as snakes will tend to hide and go away from the noise. If you are in long grass or in a snake prone area it is best to keep your dog on a lead.

**If you see a snake too near your house stay away from it, keep your dogs away from it and call:**

**Reptile Rescue: 0499 116 690.** Reptile Rescue is an incorporated charity which co-ordinates the relocation of snakes throughout Tasmania.

**Tony Ross, Tassie Snake Rescue: 0429 003 178 or [Tassiesnakes@gmail.com](mailto:Tassiesnakes@gmail.com).** Tony is available seven days a week. Fees apply.

**Asha: 0438 758 213**

**Ian Lovell: 0428 320 342.** Ian is based at Mountain River, available after hours and weekends. Fees apply.

**If the worst happens try not to panic as this will probably cause your dog to panic too. Get your dog to the vet as soon as possible. The following list may help you but it could be costly.**

Name & Address	Phone	Hours
Animal Emergency Service (AES) Previously known as AHVEC 37 Derwent Park Rd, Moonah	1300 302 912	Open 24 hours 7 days a week. No appointment required but ring before arrival if possible. Email: <a href="mailto:hobart@aes.email">hobart@aes.email</a>
Huon Valley Veterinary Hospital 3/13 Sale Street, Huonville.	6264 3002	8.30am—5.00pm Mon—Fri
Eileen Wronski 119 Main Road, Huonville.	6264 2328 0435 033 039	9.00am—5.00pm Mon-Fri Available after hours.
Kingston Animal Hospital 1 Freeman St. Kingston	6229 5900	8.00am—6.00pm Mon-Fri 8.30am—12.30pm Sat
Channel Highway Animal Hospital 170 Channel Highway, Kingston	6229 7939	8.00am—6.00pm Mon-Fri 9.00am—2.00pm Sat
Tasmanian Veterinary Hospitals Shop 2, 11 John St. Kingston	6229 9345	8.30am—6.00pm Mon—Fri
Hobart Animal Hospital, 198 Murray St. Hobart	6236 9787	8.00am—6.00pm Mon-Fri 9.00am—2.00pm Sat
Sandy Bay Holistic Veterinary Centre 11 Gregory St. Sandy Bay	6227 3364	8.30am—7.00pm, Mon, Wed 8.30am—6.00pm, Tues, Thur, Fri 9.00am—12.00noon Sat.
The Dog Clinic Shop 4, 148 Channel Hwy, Taroona. 513 Sandy Bay Rd, Sandy Bay	6227 9586	8.30am—5.30pm Mon—Fri 9.00am—12 noon Sat 9.00am—1.30pm Mon-Thur, 9-12 Sat.

Above information correct as at December 2024



# Grass Seeds

## A summer hazard you may not be aware of

The worst summer dog hazard? We're talking here about one that is quite common and can cause considerable damage, including infection and in serious cases, fatality. And that is grass seeds, especially in late spring and summer. The grass seeds with pointed heads and long tails are tailor-made to penetrate a dog's skin and easily move through its body, moved deeper by muscle movement.



They can travel many centimetres into a dog's body, and cause serious internal injury. Initially, the seed can cause redness, inflammation and possibly an abscess with pus, and become painful to touch. Removal of the seed can require local anaesthetic or even a general anaesthetic if the seed has travelled internally.

Here are the symptoms to watch out for:

### Grass seeds in ears

Head shaking, redness and painful to touch, holding the head to one side, loss of balance.

#### Possible effects:

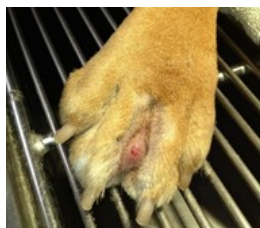
Ear infection, ruptured eardrum, hearing loss and possible advancement of infection into the inner ear associated with the balance apparatus.

### Grass seeds in paws

Licking at the toes, red, swollen area on the foot and Between toes, limping or holding the leg up

#### Possible effects:

Can track deeply into the foot. (See picture below)



### How to protect your pet:

Be particularly vigilant if you have a long-haired breed or working breed of dog—they are most at risk of picking up a grass seed. Prevent your pet from entering areas of tall grass. Be careful in reserves and paddocks. Ensure all grooming is up to date and that long hair is clipped. After a walk, groom your pet and remove any seeds—focus on toes, ears and armpits.

### Grass seed in eyes

Swollen, red eye, excessive tear production, rubbing eye, squinting.

#### Possible effects:

Loss of eyesight or surgery to remove the eye.

### Grass seed in nose

Repeated sneezing, bloody discharge from nostril, rubbing face on the ground, difficulty breathing.

#### Possible effects:

Internal tissue damage, airway blockage, lung infection.

### Grass seed in genitals

Licking at the site, difficulty peeing, blood in urine.

#### Possible effects:

Pain and risk of seed travelling deeper into genitals and body.

### Grass seed in skin

Swollen, red lump, with blood or pus, dog licking at site, grass seed sticking out from skin.

#### Possible effects:

Seed can enter the body.



# Dogs and Water Safety

Water can be a great source of fun for you and your dog. Before you take your pooch out for a paddle, it's a good idea to brush up on some water safety tips.



Not all canines are natural-born swimmers. There's no sure way to gauge your dog's swimming skills until you introduce him to water and teach him the basics.

Choose a quiet, shallow spot in the water and keep him on a lead while he's learning. Get in the water with him. Start at the edge of the water and stay as long as he enjoys it. Don't force him into water if he doesn't want to go.

The younger your dog is when you teach him to swim, the better. Keep the lesson positive and stress-free for him.

## At the Beach

Watch out for strong currents and rips which can take you both out to sea as even the best swimmer can be in danger when the seas are rough.

Don't let your dog drink sea water because it can make him sick. Bring fresh water with you to keep him hydrated. Keep him away from fish that have washed onto the shore as they can make him ill. Don't let your dogs go into areas on the beach where they're not allowed. Dunes and grassy areas need to be protected from any sort of environmental damage that a dog might cause. They might also be inhabited by snakes!

Don't let your dog out of your site. Paying attention and being proactive will go a long way to protecting you and your dog from accidents.

Pack a the leash, some toys, plenty of beach towels, umbrella or shade tent, fresh water, and doggie sunscreen (yes, you can actually get sunscreen specifically made for dogs).

Bring your own doggie poo bags and be diligent about cleaning up.

## In the Pool

Have a pool in your backyard? Keep it Fido-friendly with these steps:

Ensure that the pool gate is closed to keep your dog out when it's not time to swim.

Keep a sturdy cover over the pool when you're not using it. It should be made of a material that lets rainwater drain through. Dogs can drown in puddles on top of pool covers.

Teach your dog how to get out of the pool. Make sure there are steps or a ramp he can use to climb out.

## Rivers and Lakes

Never let your dog swim in blue-green algae ponds which can be signified by a foul odour and a murky appearance. Certain types of algae can produce a deadly toxin that may cause severe sickness or seizures if he ingests the water. Lakes sometimes have deep mud or sand that may cause your pet to panic.

If you're walking along a river that has a strong current keep him on a lead. If you find calm, shallow water with an easy entry and exit point let him wade in but leave the leash on. Rivers that look calm can still have snags or a strong current and sweep your dog downstream.

## Boats

Many dog owners assume their pets can swim, but a short paddle in the pool is a big difference to swimming through strong currents and in open waters. Your dog may not be strong enough or fast enough to swim alongside your boat. Short-legged breeds can also have problems swimming. Regardless of how good a swimmer your pet is, a sudden fall into water can cause panic. A doggy Personal Flotation Device is a good investment.

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Don't assume your dog will enjoy boating. Allow him to get acquainted with the boat while it is still on the trailer or at the dock. This is also a good time to let them wear a PFD for the first time. Your next step is to turn on the engine as it may be an unfamiliar sound to your dog.

Make your first outing on the water is a short one just to allow your pet to get used to boat movement. Dogs can get seasick too!

Teaching your dog basic safety commands, such as stay, sit, on boat, off boat will be invaluable.

Be extra alert at dock, where most accidents happen. Make sure your dog knows not to get off the boat without permission. Keep an eye on them and never leave them unattended. If you tether your pet on the boat, do it in a secure area, on a short lead and never at the neck.

Bath mats or outdoor carpet with rubber non-slip backings can help with your dog's footing in slippery areas.

Taking these simple tips into consideration can help you make the most of your boating trip. Your dog will enjoy the fresh air and time spent with you. Exercising basic safety precautions should ensure a safe and pleasant day out on the lake or at sea.

## General Water Safety

No matter where your pooch makes a splash, follow these pointers:

- Rinse him off after he's been in any type of water. Seawater minerals, salt, chlorine, algae, and pollution can irritate or damage his skin and fur.
- Remove his flea collar before he swims. Water can wash off its active ingredients.
- Dry him off thoroughly to avoid him catching a chill.
- Dry your dog's ears completely to prevent infection.
- Provide a shady place and plenty of fresh water.
- Learn canine CPR. Mouth-to-nose resuscitation could save a dog's life in an emergency.
- Never leave your dog in the water unsupervised.

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## Water Intoxication

We all know that dehydration can be fatal to our dogs, but did you know that too much water intake is equally dangerous?

During the warmer months, we love to see our dogs frolic in the water. It's so much fun watching them play in their kiddie pools, under the sprinkler or jump into a lake or river to retrieve a ball or stick. However, these activities all have one potential danger - our dogs may inadvertently ingest a large volume of water.

### What is Water Intoxication?

Water intoxication in dogs is what happens when a canine consumes excess water; this can be from playing in the pool or biting at the garden hose. The result of excess water? A depletion of the sodium, and chloride levels required for the body to function. When there is too much water in the body fluids, sodium levels outside the body cells become significantly depleted (a condition known as "hyponatremia"). In order to rebalance itself, the body increases fluid intake inside the cells. As a result, the cells are "swollen" with fluid, making them bigger in size. Within the skull, the swollen brain cells expand, causing an increase in the intracranial pressure and a lot of damage to the brain.

## Symptoms

The symptoms of water intoxication vary based on the amount of water consumed, the size and health condition of the dog and the time since drinking. If your dog has been diving, retrieving, and playing in the water for a while (around 20-30 minutes), there is a possibility that he may already have ingested too much water.

Watch out for these signs and symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Wobbliness when walking
- Lethargy
- Convulsions
- Pale gums
- Dilated pupils

In more serious cases, the dog may have problem breathing, develop seizures, and lose consciousness.

Symptoms do vary, so if you're worried that your dog may have water intoxication, and isn't acting quite right – trust your instinct. Get him out of the water and consult your Vet if necessary.

## The Difference Between Fresh and Salt Water Intoxication

Another danger for dogs that spend time enjoying the wonders of the sea is salt poisoning, also known as hypernatremia. While similar in name to hyponatremia (water intoxication), the symptoms can be different.

If your dog has salt poisoning he may develop the following symptoms:

- Dehydration
- Vomiting
- Uncontrolled bowel movement
- Fits and convulsions

If you worry that your dog may be suffering from hypernatremia, consult your veterinarian immediately. Salt poisoning can detrimentally affect neurological function, and even cause death.

## Risk Factors

All dogs may be affected by water intoxication; however, some dogs are more prone to this problem. They include:

**Small dogs:** Because of their smaller bodies, it takes shorter time for water to build up in their bodies. Therefore they tend to show symptoms quicker than larger dogs.

**Dogs with little body fat:** Dogs who are fit and have little body fat are more prone to this condition since there is not much extra fat tissue to absorb the extra fluid in the body.

**Dogs with high energy:** Dogs who are highly focused and have a lot of energy tend to be more persistent in their activities. Therefore, they will jump and dive to retrieve that ball or stick as long as their dog parents allow them to do so. This greatly increases the risk of excessive water intake.

**Dogs with obsessive-compulsive behaviour:** Some dogs are obsessed with water hoses or sprinklers - they can spend minutes, even hours, biting at the jets of water coming out from a hose or sprinkler, and by doing so, they ingest excessive amounts of water.