

Bulldog Water

Summer trips to the beach, rivers or lakes with your bulldog require planning. Most bulldogs are not built for swimming. With heavy chests and smaller hips, the bulldog is built for nose diving. Many bulldogs drown each year because owners did not plan properly.



Life vests are a must for bulldogs playing near water, and **Never leave your dog unattended!** Although swimming is a great form of exercise, your bully can easily overdo it. You must always be in a position to help your bulldog get out of the water. Even with a life vest; he/she will be using new muscles and may tire quickly. Many summer trips involve boating; **Never take a bulldog on a boat without a life vest!**

Cool ocean water is tempting. Do not allow your bulldog to drink too much seawater. The salt in the water will make him/her sick. In addition, salt and other minerals found in the ocean can damage your dog's coat and dry the skin. Take time to rinse your bulldog off with fresh water when you are ready to leave for the day.

If your dog is out of shape; don't encourage him to run too much on the sand. Running on a beach is strenuous exercise, and a dog that is out of shape can easily pull a tendon or ligament.

When at a beach, be sure to check with a life-guard for daily water conditions - dogs are easy targets for jellyfish and sea lice.

Whether your vacation takes you to a beach, a lakefront or along a stream, always provide plenty of fresh water and shade for your bulldog.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CARE OF YOUR BULLDOG :

Visit www.thebca.org for current educational materials designed to help you in the care and maintenance of your bulldog and contact information for BCA affiliated clubs in your area.

Thanks to Tammy Thresher, Sandy Fisher, and Alisa Sexton from the Bulldog Club of Greater Seattle for the pictures of bulldogs enjoying the water in this flyer.



Playing in water is fun, but some Bulldogs may also benefit from water therapy, especially after knee surgery like Brodie in the picture above at K9 Aquatics in WA . Check the Association of Canine Water Therapy website at:

www.caninewatertherapy.com for a center near you. *Brodie is an accomplished swimmer and he is always supervised. Be sure to put a life vest on your dog prior to swimming.*



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BULLDOGS AND SUMMER

INFORMATION ON THE CARE
OF YOUR BULLDOG

*Special considerations
for warmer weather*



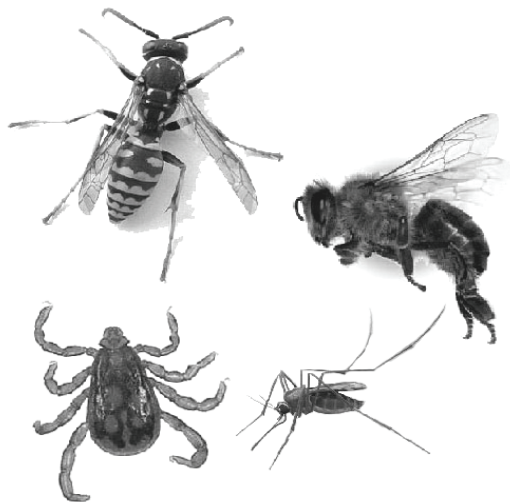
**BULLDOG CLUB OF
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2008

Summer Critters

Beware of insect bites. If your bulldog is bitten or stung, remove the stinger and watch the site for an allergic reaction. If a reaction occurs, or there have been multiple wasp, bee or mosquito bites, take the bulldog to the vet immediately. If your Bulldog shows any sign of difficulty breathing, or that his/her airway is restricted; you may have a very serious situation on hand. It is wise to have Benadryl™ on hand and call your Vet immediately for dosing instructions prior to transport.



Warmer weather encourages the breeding of fleas and ticks. A flea infestation can cause serious skin issues and threaten the overall health of your bulldog. Talk with your veterinarian about prevention medications to get ahead of the curve.

Heartworm is a common and life threatening problem for dogs. Take your dog to a vet for a heartworm check every spring and follow your vet's advice for heartworm precautions. Even if you live in an area not prone to heartworms; you need to be concerned, if you travel to states where the problem exists for vacation, dog shows or visiting family. Your Vet will be able to direct you in protecting your bulldog.

Summer Temps

Summer invites playing outside. Just remember, the outdoors exposes your bulldog to the elements. Dogs may need extra brushing and bathing to stay clean and healthy. A kiddie pool and supervised play time is a fun way to help keep your bulldog cool in the summer months as long as you are aware of the bulldogs specific needs.



Never leave your bulldog unattended in direct sunlight. Dogs can get sunburned, especially short-haired dogs and ones with pink skin and white hair. Do NOT think that because your Bulldog seems to enjoy sunbathing that he/she is ok. They may sleep through the early signs of heatstroke and the situation may be well out of your hands by the time you realize you have a problem. Limit your dog's exposure when the sun is unusually strong, and apply sunblock to his/her ears and nose 30 minutes before going outside.

Never leave your dog unattended in a hot, parked car. When it's only 80 degrees outside, the inside of a car can heat up to more than 120 degrees in just minutes. **Leaving the windows partially rolled down will not help.** Because of the bulldog's breathing apparatus, he/she is susceptible to heat stroke and possible death in these conditions.

Heatstroke can lead to brain damage or death. Signs of heatstroke are panting, drooling, rapid pulse and fever. Immediately immerse the dog in COOL (not COLD) water and seek immediate emergency veterinary assistance.

Summer Vacations



Whether you are traveling by car, or plane (Amtrak and Greyhound do not transport live animals) pre-planning is essential! Do your hotels/motels allow pets? (Is there an additional fee?) Do all your planned activities allow dogs? If some days are planned at a doggy spa or day care, are all your bully's shots current...and do you have proof? Is your Bulldog microchipped? Do you have current contact information on a tag or collar in case of separation? Even something as simple as stopping for lunch, requires planning during the summer...your bully **cannot** wait in the car.

When traveling by air; a crate is mandatory. Be sure to check your airline's specific crate requirements. Many airlines will not allow flat faced breeds to travel when temperatures rise, so be sure to plan accordingly. Even if the weather allows you to get your dog to your destination...a warming trend may delay your return home.

A crate is also the safest way for your bulldog to travel in the car. The bulldog may get too hot in your lap. He/she will have their own space with plenty of ventilation, fresh water, and a toy or chewy to occupy them. The crate provides your bulldog a level of security during a family adventure. It remains constant regardless of the many rooms you may stay in, the different terrain you may traverse and the different schedules you may keep.

Be sure to carry with you plenty of water and your dog's normal diet, it may be unavailable in another area. Bulldogs are very ritualistic. They love routine. Your adventure is their disruption! A new diet could upset his/her stomach. Bulldogs love their family, and above all want to be with them. Careful planning on your part will keep the whole family happy!