

Summer in the Sea with Pets 2010

By Janice Hawkins – SV Ceilidh

HAZARDS

HEAT/HUMIDITY

HEAT STROKE - temp > 106 degrees (normal temp is 101-102

F)

Symptoms begin with panting, brick red mucous membranes, anxiety and agitation. Weakness and collapse soon follow.

Predisposing factors: age, breed (short nosed dogs), overweight, medical conditions

Treatment: immediate cooling with cool water immersion, alcohol applied to groin and "armpits". Use fan. Continue until temperature reaches 103 degrees. Offer plenty of cool water to drink.

Prevention: offer shade, cold water at all times. Use fans, wet towels. Avoid enclosed areas with little ventilation. Avoid hikes and long walks in the heat.

DEHYDRATION (especially a danger for older cats) symptoms: lethargy, tacky mucous membranes, loss of elasticity to skin, weakness, head droop

Treatment: increase water intake, offer flavored fluids (chicken, fish broth, milk), add electrolyte solution to water. May require sub-cutaneous fluid injections for a few days if not drinking enough. Seek medical assistance.

VARMINTS

FLEAS/TICKS - can transmit diseases and/or parasites.

Use monthly preventative medicine such as Frontline or Advantix

HEARTWORMS - transmitted by mosquitos. Use monthly preventative

medicine such as Heartgard

BEEES - anaphylaxis most common in cats and small dogs

Symptoms: vomiting, hives, facial swelling, breathing difficulty, collapse

Treatment: injection in the muscle of Benedryl (diphenhydramine), give 1 mg./lb

STING RAYS -

Treatment: soak affected area in hot water. Clean well with antibacterial soap. Watch for infection to develop (redness/swelling/purulent discharge).

PUFFER FISH - these are VERY TOXIC to dogs. They have a neurotoxin on their skin which can kill a dog within 30 minutes. There is no anecdote. Prevent your dog from picking up Puffer Fish off the beach, dead or alive!

RATTLESNAKES - These are commonly found out at night, even on the beach. In daylight they will hide under rocks, bushes or near structures or fresh water. There is no antivenom available in Baja.

VILLAGE DOGS - sometimes run in packs, and may attack. They commonly have parasites, viruses, mange and/or venereal disease. These dogs will usually run away if you act like you are picking up a rock to throw at them. Be on guard. I recommend that you don't take your dog into town.

There is no veterinarian north of Santa Rosalia, except across the Sea at San Carlos/Guaymas.

If you have a problem with your pets in the Bahia de Los Angeles area, contact Janice on S/V Ceilidh (K-Lee) on Channel 68, or call KG6RSL on the Sonrisa Net, 3.968 LSB at 1330 zulu. I am a veterinary surgical technician. I have supplies on board and contact with veterinarians in the States for advice.

If you are here at Bay Fest with a pet, I would be glad to meet him/her (and you) and give you advice on what to have in your pet first aid kit.

An additional veterinary contact in the BLA area is Susana. She can be reached on VHF Ch.16.