

The background of the image is a stylized American flag. The top half features a blue field with white, five-pointed stars arranged in a grid. The bottom half features red and white wavy stripes. The text is centered over the blue field.

Labor Day Tips for Pet Safety

A message from Atlantic Veterinary
Hospital

As summer vacation draws to a close we often celebrate Labor Day with fireworks, barbeques, and open pool days. While all this fun is a great way to celebrate both our country and the people who work to make it better, we can sometimes forget the furry members of our family. Fireworks can be scary, certain food can cause gastric upset, constant swimming can cause skin irritation, and visitors can leave gates or doors open for Fido or Fluffy to escape. We've put together a little list of helpful hints for you to follow so no one has to visit the emergency room this holiday weekend.

Keep pets in a separate, closed area or alternatively hang a sign to gently remind visitors and children to keep doors and gates closed

- One in three pets will become lost in their lifetime
- An AVMA study showed that only 22% of dogs and less than 2% of cats were reunited with their owners after being lost!
- Microchipping your pet drastically improves your chances of a lost pet being returned but you have to register the chip first! Only 58% of microchips were registered with any or the correct information so don't forget to update the info when you move!
- Every microchip we implant is registered by us with PetLink, making sure your pet is protected!

10 things to do if your pet is lost

Nearly one in five lost pets goes missing after being scared by the sound of fireworks, thunderstorms or other loud noises, according to a survey by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And, while losing your pet can be a traumatic experience for both you and your pet, have hope as 93 percent of dogs and 75 percent of cats reported lost are returned safely to their homes, according to another survey.

If you do lose your pet, here are 10 top tips to help reunite you with your furry friend as quickly as possible:

- 1 File a lost pet report with every shelter and animal control office within a 60-mile radius of your home and visit the nearest shelters daily, if possible.
- 2 Get the word out to all veterinarians in the area. Sometimes people pick up a stray and drive it to a distant clinic.
- 3 Walk or drive through your neighborhood several times each day. Enlist friends and family to help. Hand out a recent photograph of your pet and your contact information.
- 4 Speak with your neighbors. The more people know you have lost a pet and that you are desperately trying to find your pet, the more people will call you if they see a loose animal.
- 5 Place flyers in the neighborhood and public places. To avoid scams, when describing your pet, leave out one characteristic and ask the person who finds your pet to describe it.
- 6 Post about your pet on all pet recovery websites and services. Sites such as Craigslist.org, TheCenterForLostPets.com and FidoFinder.com broadcast your missing pet quickly.



- 7 Consider a lost pet recovery service. There are numerous lost pet alert services that will contact homes, veterinarians, shelters and animal control organizations for a reasonable fee.
- 8 Place food and water outside your home. Your pets may return to your home when they get hungry or thirsty. Consider placing food in a humane pet trap to capture them.
- 9 Tell everyone you see about your pet and ask them to keep their eyes open. The more people you alert, the greater the chance someone will recollect seeing your pet in their area.
- 10 Don't give up. Be aggressive in your search, get lots of help and get the word out right away. You need those early hours to put up posters and start your search.

Fireworks can be scary and many pets suffer from anxiety attacks due to loud noises

- Keep your pet in a secure location so they can't squeeze out an open door or window. Nearly one-in-five pets that are lost are due to a noise phobia.
- Crates are a great option for dogs and we all know that cats love hidey-holes like under your bed. Make sure your pet has access to these so they can help calm themselves during stress.
- Calming supplements (like Solliquin, which we keep available) or an anti-anxiety medication can help make the difference between a terrified pet and one that can calmly sleep through the night.
- Music therapy CD's (like Through a Dog's Ear) can often aid in calming an anxious pet- try playing the music before the fireworks start to help prevent any issues.

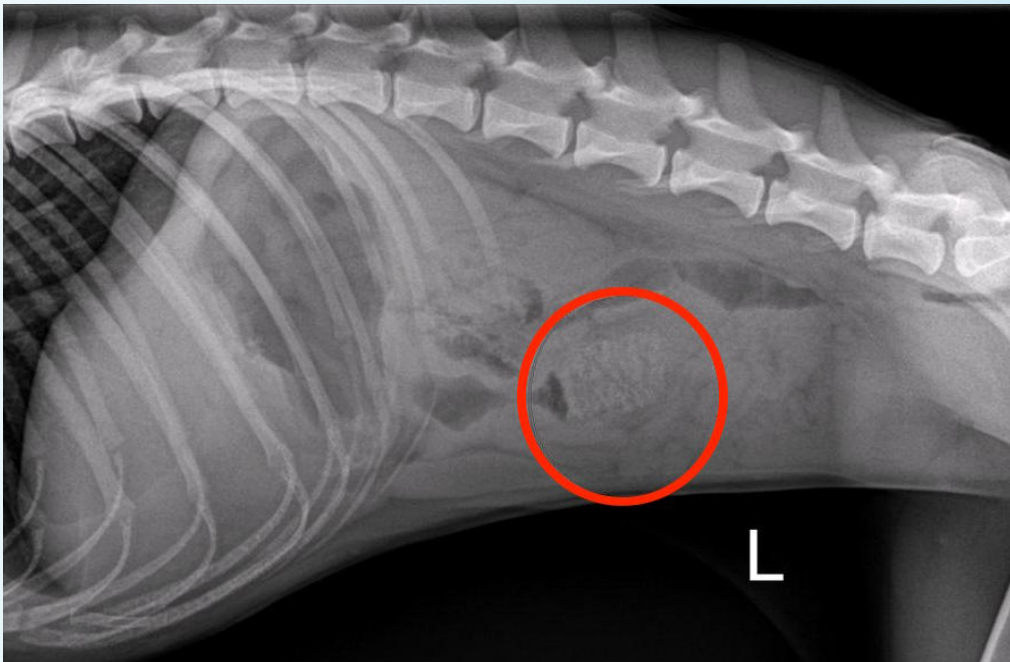
Happy Scare-The-Crap-Out-of-Your-Dog Day



Make sure trashcans have heavy lids so pets can't knock over or get into the bag

- Foreign bodies (an object stuck in your pet's stomach or intestines) are a common result of dumpster diving by curious pets. Corncobs, kabob sticks, and rib bones are very common ingested items and require surgery to remove. By the time you know there's a problem pets are often already very sick so if you know your pet has ingested something call us immediately!
- Other common items that can cause foreign bodies are pacifiers, rags, socks, and toys!

Corncobs ingested by pets can create an intestinal obstruction



A corncob, (**Red circle**) lodged in dog's small intestine causing an obstruction. Signs of obstruction include frequent vomiting and lack of appetite. A small intestinal obstruction is an emergency scenario, which requires immediate surgery to correct.

The grill is often a dog's object of idolization in the backyard with all those yummy burgers and hotdogs but letting them indulge can have serious consequences that night or the next day

- Ingesting too much fat from dripping or meat ends can cause acute pancreatitis. Pancreatitis is a serious condition that is often characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, and lethargy. While some pets can have a mild problem, this can cause life-threatening issues in others that require multiple days of hospitalization!
- Many spices and cheeses can cause gastrointestinal upset, which can leave pets dehydrated. Remember, the very young and senior pets are at a higher risk of becoming dehydrated and very ill much quicker than an adult, just like us.
- For a more comprehensive list of foods to avoid feeding your pet, visit this helpful link from the [ASPCA](#)



While common barbeque foods are delicious, they are often high in fat that can cause serious problems for pets

Grease pans are an often forgotten part of the grill- don't forget to clean it out before your beloved puppy can do it for you!



Heatstroke and sunburn are common problems faced by not only dogs but outside cats as well

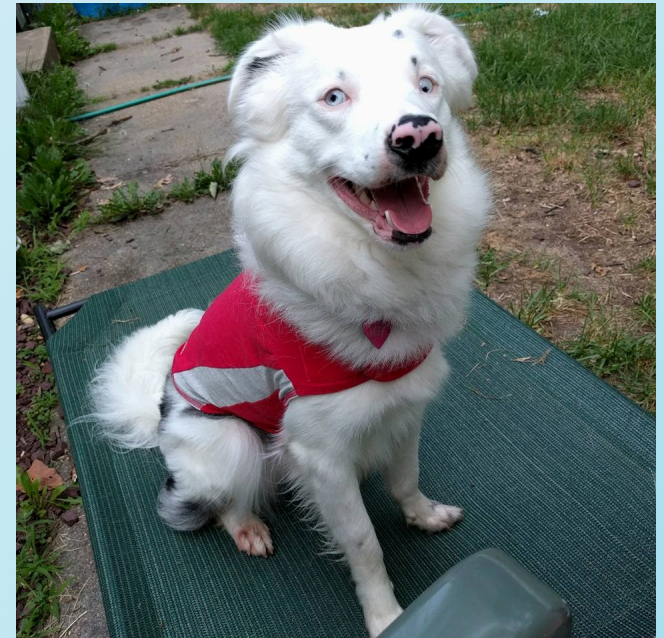
- Heatstroke is a very dangerous issue for dogs since they do not sweat in the same way we do. Watch pets for excessive panting, lethargy, and glazed eyes. Always provide cool water and shade, cooling coats and bandanas can also extend your pet's comfort while enjoying the outdoors. Pets with a short muzzle (called brachiocephalic) are at the highest risk for heatstroke.
- Pets with white fur, close-shaved fur, and blue eyes are at a higher risk for sunburn, which can be just as painful for them as it is when we burn.



Brachiocephalic breeds are at risk for overheating due to their inability to cool themselves



White dogs, especially ones with blue eyes, are prone to sunburn and eye problems due to sun exposure. Dog safe sunscreen, reflective clothing, and doggles can all prolong your dog's time outside



Remember that late summer and fall are the peak season for fleas and ticks

- Swimming and frequent bathing can wash off topical preventatives so if your pet enjoys water activities we recommend using an oral preventative like NexGard to protect your pet. External parasites can cause not just skin infections but also transmit dangerous diseases. In this area risks include lyme, anaplasmosis, ehrlichia from ticks and haemobartonellosis from fleas.
- Also keep in mind that flea and tick preventatives do not commonly prevent mosquito bites, which transmit heartworm disease. We recommend keeping every dog on a monthly heartworm preventative like HeartGard or Interceptor and test every 12 months to detect this deadly disease in the early stages while we can treat it!



Mosquitos are more than annoying, they can transmit heartworms which start out small but can grow to be a foot long and one dog can have as many as several hundred worms if not treated early!

Fleas and ticks can transmit many diseases which can be treated simply when caught early but left unchecked can progress to life-threatening complications





**The entire Atlantic Veterinary Hospital family
wishes you a happy and safe Labor Day
weekend.**

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