

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

Spring 2015



Almost nothing nicer than relaxing in a field of flowers, unless environmental allergies are a problem!

Spring is (was) here

We used to rely on certain trees and flowers to follow the calendar and herald the coming of spring. For easterners, it may be the crocus flower emerging from the ground while it was still dusted with snow. For those in the west, deciduous plants would begin to bud followed by an explosion of leaves within weeks.

Lately it seems that spring is arriving earlier than years past. Although parts of the country that experienced the last brutal winter are no doubt welcoming the warmer weather. Even plants that were restricted to certain "planting zones" are now finding new admirers as the environment becomes more suitable to their temperature range as these temperate zones expand into new areas.

People and pets with seasonal allergies are also affected by this shift because pollens are released earlier in the season and what may have been a expected nuisance in April, may now start in March (or even February)!

Mild allergic symptoms may be controlled with symptomatic therapy, but be sure to ask your veterinarian for guidance on dosage for your pet with over the counter medications that may be recommended. Often seasonal allergies become year round ailments with excessive licking and scratching at extremities, face or the trunk to alleviate itching sensations. Each pet is unique and managing allergies is a multi-modal process that may involve oral and topical symptomatic relief while simultaneously investigating underlying triggers via allergy testing, food trials and eliminating other causes of irritation and itching. Also severity of symptoms may worsen over time and from season to season and year to year. So what may have been effective for one pet or in one season or year may not provide help for another. Ask your veterinarian for the best options in diagnosing and managing your allergic pet.

Bee Allergy in Pets:

Bee venom immunotherapy can help alleviate symptoms

Bees play an important part in the cycle of plants, but can cause havoc for a bee allergic pet. Animal Dermatology Clinic specializes in diagnosing and treating allergic conditions in pets, but one of the less commonly known therapies available to pets is bee or wasp venom immunotherapy. Pets, like people can be highly sensitive to a bee sting. For most animals, a bee sting is unpleasant, but for one that is allergic, a bee sting can cause local reactions, swelling of the throat, hives, or in some extreme cases, even anaphylaxis. Without immediate treatment, death may result in an severely sensitized allergic patient. The use of Epi-Pen injectable epinephrine products has been used in the past but is controversial and many referral and research facilities recommend against this as some patients can develop worsening signs which exacerbate the problems. While antihistamines or corticosteroids may be administered to help in a crisis situation, desensitization with been venom preventative therapy may be the best approach.

Reactions to bee or wasp stings can vary depending on the size of the pet, the location of the sting and the sensitivity of the patient. Many pets love to "chase" and ingest bees and envenomation in the oral cavity can be particularly concerning. Pets may also be stung without the knowledge of the pet owner. At Animal Dermatology Clinic, we can test and begin immunotherapy for bee or wasp hypersensitivity. While it may not always be 100% effective in controlling all allergic signs of envenomation from a venomous insect sting, it will significantly lessen the reactions and allow for medical management to be instituted in the most severely allergic patient.

If you have seen evidence of a reaction or suspect that your pet may be bee or wasp allergic, it is wise to err on the side of caution when taking your pet outdoors. Bee and wasp testing with hypo-sensitization therapy may allow for less concern for you and your pet when enjoying the great outdoors!

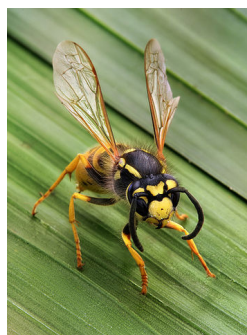
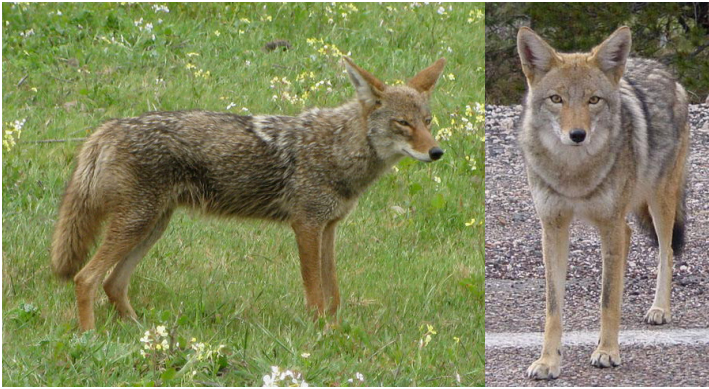


Image of one type of wasp (l.) and a honey bee (r.). Honey bees are an especially important insect in the cycle of plants, but bees and wasps can be problematic for the bee allergic dog.

Image left: Wikicommons, Richard Bartz



Images of the coyote. Originally from the midwest of North America, they are now found across the U.S. and Mexico and parts of Central America. No doubt they will enter into South America in the coming decades. Images: Wikicommons, left Macmanes, right Mayra

Coyotes Go Urban

Canis latrans is a distant relative of our beloved dog, *Canis lupus familiaris*. Originally from the Midwest plains, these clever animals are now found coast to coast and getting quite comfortable.

As the human population has encroached into coyote territory, coyotes easily adapt to habits of humans and capitalize on the interaction, most often to the irritation of the human. In rural areas, coyotes prey upon grazing animals, small domesticated pets and on the very rare occasion an unfortunate human!

Today, coyotes are seen in many urban communities walking the streets most often during their active hours of dawn and dusk. Coyotes are omnivores and sadly, pets are on the preferred list for coyotes.

Coyotes can easily clear a 5-foot fence and a 6–7 foot fences can still be scaled by an ingenious and hungry coyote. If you live in an area with coyote activity, an unattended pet in a fenced backyard may still fall prey. Stories abound from pet owners that coyotes have entered fenced backyard with a sad outcome.

The *New York Times* recently reported coyote sightings in Manhattan, one of the most urban and densely populated areas in the country. Coyotes are here to stay and it is critical for people to discourage food opportunities by securing garbage bins and keeping a watchful and protective eye on pets.

Factoid: Coyote, Dog or Wolf?

These animals are from the same genus *Canis* but an interesting characteristic that defines them is the way they run. A coyote runs with his tail down, a wolf with his tail straight out and a dog runs with his tail up.

In case you meet a coyote...

Nearly every populous city offers a remote area for recreational activity: hiking, biking, walking or camping. Part of the enchantment of these areas is to offer a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy nature. Often dogs are more than happy to accompany you on these adventures.

Wildlife and most likely coyotes live in these areas. You and your dog are entering their territory but you should not encourage contact or offer food. Many people enjoy the solitude of these remote areas but traveling in pairs does offer safety in many ways.

It is wise to keep your dog on a leash and not let the dog chase the coyote. Coyotes often travel in packs and should your dog chase one coyote, he may find himself facing many coyotes in a remote area.

It is a rare occurrence that a coyote will be aggressive towards an adult, merely due to the size difference, but in Southern California encounters are increasing. If you do encounter a coyote, experts provide the following tips:

Do not run. It will only encourage a chase which the coyote will certainly outrun you. Instead, stand tall and use what you have to make yourself appear larger. Open your coat or hold your backpack over your head.

Make eye contact with the coyote and slowly back away. Do not turn your back to the coyote.

If rocks or sticks are readily available, throw them at the coyote.

Make loud noises, by yelling or clapping your hands.

The coyote has been portrayed as a bumbling roadrunner chaser, but in reality they are intelligent predators. While they may look like dogs, they are not domesticated pets and to maintain our co-existence with them, we must give them respect while being cautious and mindful when they are about.

Reporter Cheryl Santa Maria compiled these timely tips to prepare your dog as the days of summer approach.

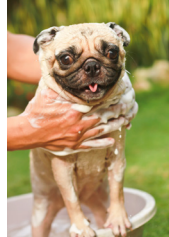
Source: *The Weather Network, Cheryl Santa Maria*

5. Avoid overheating.



Some breeds tolerate the heat better than others, but all dogs can get too hot during the scorching summer months. Try to limit exercise during the hottest times of the day and never leave your dog in a hot car unattended, not even for a minute. Cars can get hot quickly and that can have fatal consequences. Despite this image above, dogs don't benefit from a fan's cooling properties as a person would.

4. Take a trip to the doggy spa



Summer is a great time to get your dog trimmed and ready for the season. A good bath and brush will help shake off the remainder of your pooch's winter coat.

3. Top up vaccinations



Your dog will be spending more time outdoors, elevating the risk of exposure to ticks, fleas and germs. Make sure he or she is up-to-date on vaccinations and on flea prevention.

2. Keep Fido hydrated



It's important to have fresh water available for your dog all year round, but it's especially critical when the temperature is hot. Throw a few ice cubes in your dog's water bowl to change things up. There's an old internet myth that ice cubes can cause harmful canine bloating, but it's long ago been debunked. Still, ice not advisable for puppies who risk choking, and keep it to just a few.

1. Keep it shady



Not necessarily shady as in sunglasses, but in the coolness of a shady spot. If your pet spends time outdoors, ensure that a shaded area is available to escape the direct sun. The grassy area under the shade of a tree is markedly cooler. Isn't that where you would prefer to be?

Derm Digest

Pet events near you. The following events are listed for informational purposes only, Animal Dermatology Clinic does not have any affiliation with these organizations. Please contact the organizer before attending as dates and times may have changed.

Georgia Dachshund Races 2015

Jim Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road SW, **Marietta, GA**
770-934-2853 GeorgiaDachshundRaces@gmail.com

June 27, 2015 9:00am to 5:00pm

Admission: \$5.00

Our annual championship races, which benefits DREAM Dachshund Rescue, are on the 4th Saturday of June at Jim Miller Park, Marietta. The winners of our annual championship races will be invited to represent Georgia at the National Dachshund Races. For more information see GeorgiaDachshundRaces.com.

For more information, please call 770-934-2853 or email GeorgiaDachshundRaces@gmail.com.

BowWow Bash

Arbuckle Park

200 N. Green Street, **Brownsburg, IN**

August 29, 2015 10am to 3pm

Admission: \$5 recommended donation

Benefiting: Misty Eyes Animal Center

An outside festival with pet-related vendors, adoptable animals from several local organizations, food, pet themed contests and much more! For more information call Sheryl Sackett 317-852-3893

Doggie Street Festival

Liberty Station Park - **San Diego, CA**

Saturday, August 22, 2015 9AM to 4PM

Admission: Free to the public

Bring the family to the 7th Annual Doggie Street Festival at Liberty Station Park. Adopt-a-thon to find your new pet, games, pet related vendors, food, music and so much more. Friendly dogs welcomed! See you there! For more information email doggiestreet@gmail.com

Annual Bark in the Park

Seneca Park 12207 Westport Rd., **Louisville, KY**

September 26, 2015, 8 am to 3 pm.

***Animal Dermatology Clinic will be there!**

Bark in the Park is a celebration of all things canine. Each September, The Animal Care Society welcomes the general public to one of Metro Louisville's most popular green spaces – Seneca Park. Participate in the 5K, hang out with your dog(s) by the kiddie pools, munch on pizza and hot dogs, participate in fun contests, learn about rescue organizations and animal-friendly businesses nearby, and meet tons of amazing animal lovers right here in Louisville! Get more details about the Animal Care Society and the Bark in the Park at their website www.animalcaresociety.org

Friday June 26 is Take Your Dog to Work Day!

Yes, this is an actual event. Many companies across the U.S. allow and encourage bringing your dog to work for the day. Obviously not every business is suited to bringing your furry friend to your place of employment but consider yourself lucky if are able to do so!

Is your employer participating in this dog friendly day?

Bark After Dark

Culture Brewing, 111 South Cedros Avenue, **Solana Beach, CA**
858-848-7387 foster@furryfoster.com

May 19, 2015 6:00PM to 9:00PM

Admission: Free

Dirty Dogs has partnered with Culture Brewing in Solana Beach to host a dog-friendly craft brew event. The event benefits Furry Foster, an organization that connects homeless dogs with loving foster families. There will be plenty of dog treats and food samples from Dirty Dogs plus 25% of your check is donated. Bring the dogs for a good cause! For more information, please call 858-848-7387 or email foster@furryfoster.com.

Padres Dog Days Of Summer

PetCo Park, 100 Park Blvd, **San Diego, CA**

DogDaysofSummer@petco.com

July 1, 2015 4:00pm to 9:00pm

Admission: See PetCo Park website

Put the PET in Petco Park! San Diego Padres fans, bring your dog to the game on July 1, 2015 for the Dog Days of Summer at Petco Park. Up to 500 dogs will be permitted and an advance application is required. Please see their website for details www.petcoparkinsider.com/dog-days-summer

Doggie Street Festival

Westfield Century City, CA

Sunday, August 2, 2015 10AM to 4PM

Admission: Free to the public

Join us at Doggie Street Festival this not-to-be missed dog and cat adopt-a-thon and fun celebration of our companion animals presents fantastic pet products & services, yummy eats, vet tips, speakers, music, kids area, auction prizes and much more! Bring your friendly dog. Sponsor-Volunteer-Support. Together we can do good for our dogs and cats! www.doggiestreetfestival.org For more information, please call 323-445-5087 or email doggiestreet@gmail.com.