

Spring Safety Tips

It's that time of year again when the snow is melting and the warm weather starts to creep in. Your lab is probably itching to get outside. Here are a few things to consider to make the season enjoyable for you and your Lab.

SPRING CLEANING:

The chemicals in the majority of cleaning products on the market can be fatal to your dog. Be sure to follow instructions carefully and keep all products out of reach your dog. Also consider using a natural home remedy such as this one:
3 cups hot water
2 tbsp baking soda
2 tbsp lemon juice
Combine ingredients in a spray bottle, making sure the baking soda completely dissolves and Tadda! You have a safe all purpose cleaner.

WATER:

Keep your dog on leash around bodies of water. Most labs are crazy about swimming and the fast flowing water can get them into trouble fast. Do not let your dog drink from puddles as they can be contaminated by lawn fertilizers.

LANDSCAPING:

There is a long list of plants that are toxic to dogs along with fertilizers, weed killers and mulches. As a rule of thumb, keep you Lab away from the garden and off unknown lawns when possible and read ingredient labels and choose natural products that are safe for pets.



THE WANDERER:

Love is in the air and the animal kingdom is out on the prowl. It is not unheard of for a male to dig his way out of his yard to get to a female in heat. Check your fenced for holes and gaps, don't leave your Lab outside unattended for long periods of time. Keep him on the leash if his "come" command is not strong.

SKUNKS:

You know Spring is here when you smell that lovely skunk aroma in the air. It's best to check the area around your yard for places where skunks could get in and keep common hiding spots clear including under low hanging shrubs or trees, under porches or decks, in culverts, and near garbage. Keep your yard well lit at night and make loud noises when letting our dog out to scare away any waiting unwanted friends.



In case you do not have store bought skunk shampoo try this:

- 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- ¼ cup baking soda
- 1 tsp liquid dish soap

Combine ingredients in and open container then transfer to spray bottle. DO NOT prepare solution in advance or keep left overs as it may explode. Spray on dog avoiding eyes! Leave on for a few minutes and rinse thoroughly with water. Repeat until skunk smell is gone. DO NOT leave the solution on dog for longer than 5 minutes as it may bleach their coat and harm their skin. Next wash your dog with a gentle dog shampoo, rinse and towel dry. If your dog's eyes were sprayed by the skunk, rinse thoroughly with cool water and call your vet.