



# Summer Safety Tips

**The sun is shining, temperature rising, summer vacation has begun! Enjoy the summer with you Lab with these tips in mind.**

## **FIREWORKS& BONFIRES**

An extra loud BOOM and your Lab could be out of sight and on the run terrified. Even though she was fine around fireworks or loud noises in the past, do her a favour and keep her inside during the light show. Bonfires can also be dangerous. After all, you are burning your Lab's sticks that she oh so loves to chew and flying ashes can become a problem if she is too close. She could be paying more attention to the marsh mellows and not to her tail that is too close to the flames. Resist the urge to bring your dog to the campfire and let them rest in a safe place.

## **SWIMMING**

If there's water, you can bet there will be a Lab in it! If your Lab plays fetch in the water it is important to make her take frequent breaks to avoid timbertail syndrome, also called ruddertail or sprained tail. This is common in sporting breeds because they use their tail to balance in the water and after a long day of swimming your Lab can experience a limp and painful tail. The good news is that after a few days of rest and possibly a trip to the vet for more serious cases, the pain subsides and your Lab is back to her normal self. If you have a senior Lab or a Lab with a medical condition, try a life jacket. What? A lifejacket on a "water dog"? Your senior Lab may have some weakness in her joints or she may simply get tired faster but still enjoys to swim. A life jacket helps keep her upright in the water so she does not have to work her muscles as hard.



## **EARS**

Your Lab had a great day swimming now it is time to check her ears. If moisture remains in the ears it can lead to infection and discomfort. Also keep an eye on her ears when it is humid outside even if she has not been swimming. The moisture in the air can cause breeding grounds for ear infections. You can also see your vet for Burrow Solution that helps dry up water deep in the ear canal with just a couple drops. NEVER dig deep in your Lab's ears to get them dry. Doing so can cause permanent damage. See your vet for a demonstration on how to properly clean your Lab's ears.

## **BUGS**



By now you should have checked in with your vet for any vaccinations that are due and have started your Lab's flea and tick treatment. That being said, take her indoors when the bugs are out in full force. Misquotes can infect dogs with heartworm and cause very itchy, irritated spots like they do on humans. Although a bite is pretty inevitable for a Lab who loves to be outside, be prepared and prevent illness with proper vaccinations.

If bug bites are driving your Lab crazy with scratching try making a paste with equal parts baking soda and water. Apply to affected area for 20 minutes and then rinse. This mixture can also be used for hot spots.

## **GROOMING**

You wouldn't be comfortable in a parka in the dead of the heat so brush out your Lab's undercoat! If your Lab is difficult to brush, take her to a groomer. Continue to brush your Lab on a regular basis. There are many different types of brushes on the market so you are sure to find the best option to keep her comfortable and her locks beautiful.

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