

# A Safe Dog Day at the Beach



Bringing your dog to the beach can be fun for all, but remember to go *prepared* and be aware of the potential hazards.



## Preparation

- Be familiar with your favorite beach's rules, regulations, and leash laws
- Make sure your dog is fully vaccinated and on heartworm and flea and tick preventative.
- Make sure your dog is obedient and dog friendly
- Smaller dogs may be prone to injury from larger dogs at the beach
- Be aware of your dog's tolerance to exercise, water, and heat. Some dogs may be at risk:
  - Age - (young puppies/older dogs)
  - Breeds - short muzzled dogs like Bulldogs, Boxers, Boston Terriers, etc. can overheat quickly
  - Overweight dogs

**VET TIP:** To check if the ground is too hot for your dog's paws, place the back of your hand on its surface for a full ten seconds. If you are unable to hold it there, then it is too hot!

## Items to bring

- Collar, rabies tag, identification tag, and leash
- Dog bowl and an abundant supply of fresh drinking water
- Blanket or towel
- Umbrella for shade if no shade is available
- Zinc-free, dog-friendly sunscreen
- Life jacket
- Poop bags

There are some potential health hazards for your pet at the beach. Contact your primary veterinarian or our emergency services in these instances.

### Environmental

- Heatstroke
- Drowning
- Burning foot pads (from hot sand or blacktop)
- Sunburn

### Wounds

- Jelly fish stings
- Dog fights
- Broken glass
- Fishhooks

### Ingestion

- Salt water (salt toxicity)
- Sand
- Impaction (blockage)
- Gastroenteritis (vomiting & diarrhea)
- Shells
- Fish hooks
- Garbage
- Dead sea life
- Sun screen