

Spring Dog Safety Tips from Charlton Animal Control

Temperatures are finally rising and with them our welcomed Spring fever! The warmer weather makes us want to be outside enjoying the warmth and sunshine. The same goes for your dogs! Many of them have been waiting all winter to go for walks or play in the yard. Some have probably driven their owners crazy doing the Indy 500 down the hallways of the house! So after this long winter, any outdoor time is precious. The time that our dogs spend outdoors will only increase over the next month so it is important that owners take the time to check fences, gates, dog runs, including the clips, and dog houses to make sure they are in good condition after a hard snowy winter. Dogs must have shelter to protect them from the heat and/or poor weather, as well as food and plenty of fresh water every day.

2009 dog licenses are in so make sure to license! Licenses should be securely attached to your dog's collar along with ID tags since more outside time means more chances that our dogs may get loose or wander off to explore spring smells. Animal Control typically see a quick increase in loose dogs this time of year. If your dog does get loose or lost, it is important that you take immediate steps to find him:

1. Report your lost dog to the local Animal Control Officers, veterinarians, and shelters within a 30 mile radius.
2. Make up a lost dog flyer with a picture and bold letters and post it around the area where the dog was lost. Placing them in gallon size slide lock plastic bags will protect them in any weather.
3. Websites such as www.petfinder.org and www.craigslist.org offer free lost/found pet posting services.

If your dog is found, make sure to go back around and take down all the flyers and alert the animal control officers.

Keep your pets safe and sound this spring – make sure they are wearing their collar with their tags and license to make getting them home easier!!

Quick note on cats. Spring is kitten season! There are several local shelters that offer low cost spay/neuter programs. Please get your cat fixed and help stop pet overpopulation.

For more information and spay/neuter resources, visit Charlton Animal Control online at www.townofcharlton.net/animalcontrol.htm or call 508-248-2266.