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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DOG BEACH SAFETY

### Ensuring Your Dog's Safety During His Day of Fun in the Sun

As the weather begins to warm up many of us start to think about heading to the beach for a day of fun in the sun, and those of us with dogs often want to include Fido in the activities. Dog-friendly beaches can be a fantastic place for dogs to romp and play, but you do need to consider your dog's safety and health before unclipping that leash.

It's a good idea to leave your dog's collar and ID tags on while at the beach, just in case he wanders off. Putting your cell phone number on your dog's ID tag is also a good idea – that way someone who finds Fido can get in touch with you immediately.

Just like people, dogs are susceptible to sunburn, especially those with shorter or lighter colored coats. Applying a dog-safe sunscreen to sensitive areas like the ears and nose can prevent painful sunburns and keep your pup safe from skin cancer.

Dogs can overheat very quickly and suffer heat exhaustion and heat stroke, so be sure to keep a close eye on Fido for any signs of distress. Heavy or excessive panting, reddening of the tongue and inside of the ears, paleness or graying of the gums, confusion, staggering, vomiting and collapsing are all signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke and must be taken very seriously. Consider bringing your dog to the beach in the morning or evening when temperatures aren't so hot, and always make sure you have a shady area for Fido to rest and fresh water for him to drink. Many dogs will play until they collapse, so keeping a close eye on your pup and stopping play for rest periods will help keep Fido safe.

The nice cool ocean water might be tempting to your pup, so be sure to bring plenty of fresh water and offer it often to Fido. Drinking salt water can really upset your dog's tummy and too much salt water can cause health problems.

If it's your dog's first time at the beach, acclimate him slowly and don't force him into the water. Some breeds absolutely love swimming and running in the surf, while others prefer to keep all four paws on the sand. You want the beach to be a fun experience for Fido, so it's important to understand what your dog enjoys.

Never leave your dog unattended at the beach, even for a split second. There are plenty of hazards Fido can encounter, both in and out of the water. Rip currents pose a drowning hazard to even the best swimmers, and all sorts of potentially dangerous things

can wash up on the beach. Making sure Fido is safe in the water and not eating things that could be toxic or cause injury is very important.

Sand and salt water can irritate Fido's paws and damage his coat, so remember to rinse him with fresh water once you leave the beach. Cleaning his ears is a good idea too, since moisture can build up and cause ear infections.

Your dog's safety and health at the beach is easy to ensure just by taking a few simple steps to help Fido make the most of his day while keeping him out of harm's way!

*Katie Earle is the vice- president and a senior trainer at The Collared Scholar. The Collared Scholar offers premiere training and obedience services in the San Diego area. They are fully licensed and insured and their services include: Puppy Socialization: Basic and Advanced Obedience, Agility, Anti-Aggression training, In-Kennel Training and Search and Rescue Training. The Collared Scholar also runs and operates a rescue program to help dogs in need. For more information, please visit [www.collared-scholar.com](http://www.collared-scholar.com) or call 619-233-1005.*

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