



The Canine Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of the Orange Dog Park Association

PO Box 5967, Orange, CA 92863-5967

www.orangedogpark.com



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Summer 2011

President's Message

Happy summer everyone!

With the summer comes the heat. Please be vigilant to the heat and how it can affect your dog while at the Park. Make sure your dog(s) and you have plenty of water, rest in the shade, and not over-tire them to help prevent heat exhaustion.

Park update - Good news is the board members have begun discussions on the re-seeding of the grass in both dog parks come this fall. The last time we did major re-seeding was 2008. Since then we (including our parks people) have tried to plant sod throughout the park with no real luck. What do we expect when the grass takes such a beating everyday except Wednesdays. Also, our sprinkler system was not set up for a dog park so the watering is not hitting the entire park due to the water pressure. Now for the bad news - we may need to close the dog park for 2-3 months. We want the grass to have a chance to get a good start. We understand that this is not ideal for everyone but once the grass is in it will be lovely for both you and your dog(s).

Our membership drive is still going. We have 95 paid new or renewed members. The membership fee goes to the ongoing park maintenance which includes poop bags. Not only are we planning to re-seed but we are also planning on a few more benches especially under the trees in the large section and to put a cement strip between the small and large dog park to prevent digging under the fence. Remember if your dog digs stop them and refill the hole(s). If you would like to join or to donate you can go to our website at www.orangedogpark.com and use the PayPal option or mail it in.

Wishing all of you and your furry friends a safe and happy time at the dog park.

Orange Dog Park Association Board Members

Nancy Randall - President

Sharon Frank - Member

Joyce Atherly - Member



Rosie Cash - Treasurer

Doreen Dubocq - Secretary

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Heatstroke (Hyperthermia)

Heatstroke occurs when normal body mechanisms cannot keep the body's temperature in a safe range. Animals do not have efficient cooling systems (like humans who sweat) and get overheated easily. A dog with moderate heatstroke (body temperature from 104° to 106°F) can recover within an hour if given prompt first aid and veterinary care (normal body temperature is 100-102.5°F). Severe heatstroke (body temperature over 106°F) can be deadly and immediate veterinary assistance is needed.

Signs

A dog suffering from heatstroke will display several signs:

- Rapid panting
- Thick, sticky saliva
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea
- Bright red tongue
- Depression
- Vomiting - sometimes with blood
- Shock
- Red or pale gums
- Weakness
- Coma

What you should do

Remove the dog from the hot area immediately. Prior to taking him to your veterinarian, lower his temperature by wetting him thoroughly with cool water (for very small dogs, use lukewarm water), then increase air movement around him with a fan. **CAUTION:** Using very cold water can actually be counterproductive. Cooling too quickly and especially allowing his body temperature to become too low can cause other life-threatening medical conditions. The rectal temperature should be checked every 5 minutes. Once the body temperature is 103°F, the cooling measures should be stopped and the dog should be dried thoroughly and covered so he does not continue to lose heat. Even if the dog appears to be recovering, take him to your veterinarian as soon as possible. He should still be examined since he may be dehydrated or have other complications.

Allow free access to water or a children's rehydrating solution if the dog can drink on his own. Do not try to force-feed cold water; the dog may inhale it or choke.

What your veterinarian will do

Your veterinarian will lower your dog's body temperature to a safe range (if you have not already) and continually monitor his temperature. Your dog will be given fluids, and possibly oxygen. He will be monitored for shock, respiratory distress, kidney failure, heart abnormalities, and other complications, and treated accordingly. Blood samples may be taken before and during the treatment. The clotting time of the blood will be monitored, since clotting problems are a common complication.

Aftercare

Dogs with moderate heatstroke often recover without complicating health problems. Severe heatstroke can cause organ damage that might need ongoing care such as a special diet prescribed by your veterinarian. Dogs who suffer from heatstroke once increase their risk for getting it again and steps must be taken to prevent it on hot, humid days.

Prevention

Any pet that cannot cool himself off is at risk for heatstroke. Following these guidelines can help prevent serious problems.

- Keep pets with predisposing conditions like heart disease, obesity, older age, or breathing problems cool and in the shade. Even normal activity for these pets can be harmful.
- Provide access to water at all times.
- Do not leave your pet in a hot parked car even if you're in the shade or will only be gone a short time. The temperature inside a parked car can quickly reach up to 140 degrees.
- Make sure outside dogs have access to shade.
- On a hot day, restrict exercise and don't take your dog jogging with you. Too much exercise when the weather is very hot can be dangerous.
- Do not muzzle your dog.
- Avoid places like the beach and especially concrete or asphalt areas where heat is reflected and there is no access to shade.
- Wetting down your dog with cool water or allowing him to swim can help maintain a normal body temperature.

-Continued -

- Move your dog to a cool area of the house. Air conditioning is one of the best ways to keep a dog cool, but is not always dependable. To provide a cooler environment, freeze water in soda bottles, or place ice and a small amount of water in several resealable food storage bags, then wrap them in a towel or tube sock. Place them on the floor for the dog to lay on.

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How To Break Up A Dog Fight.

Even the most friendly and calm dogs get in tiffs with each other now and again. Sometimes a small scuffle can turn into an outright attack, no matter how well the dogs usually get along. These types of dog fights are often due to protectiveness over territory, toys or food. Often times our dogs will get into it when they see another dog out the window and one gets a little too excited, thus the bickering begins. Usually a few quick nips solves the dispute, but on occasion they go a little too far.

The number one thing to remember when trying to break up a dog fight is to never, ever get in the middle of the dogs. When they are in fight mode they are only focused on the other dog and won't look first to see if they are biting the offending dog or your hand. If there are multiple people around during the incident, the best way to break up a dog fight is to grab one dog under the hindquarters with one arm while pulling back on the collar or scruff with the other hand, while the second person does the same with the other dog. You still must take care in doing this, however once you get the dog around the hindquarters and at the collar they will have a hard time maneuvering around you and you have less of a chance of getting bitten in the process. Alternatively, you can grab both of the dog's back feet and pull them upward while walking backwards to further avoid being bitten.

If you are alone and need to break up a dog fight you can try dousing the dogs with water either from a glass, a squirt bottle or a garden hose, if outdoors. The shock of the water will often break up dog squabbles. Alternatively, if you must get between the dogs use a broom or other lengthy object to distract the dogs from one another. Never hit a dog when it is fighting - they are already in aggressive and protective mode and may react negatively to being hit.

For smaller scuffles that are more out of annoyance than aggression, a loud noise will often stop the fight immediately. Fly swatters smacked against a door or the floor, rolled up newspapers slapped into your hand or dropping a heavy book on the floor beside the dogs may do the trick just fine.

Part of knowing how to break up a fight with your dog is knowing how your dog reacts to aggression or dominance in other dogs. However, you never know how a strange dog will react, thus having a few alternatives in mind for breaking up a dog fight is a good idea.

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Orange Dog Park Association
PO Box 5967 Orange, CA 92863-5967

Calling all RALPHS shoppers, card holders, and potential shoppers!

If you shop at Ralphs (or plan to start) the Ralphs Community Contribution Program Card will donate up to 4% of what you spend to the Orange Dog Park. You will need to designate it to go to the Orange Dog Park. Directions on the back. The funds go directly to the ongoing maintenance of the dog park. Thank you.

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2. Click Sign In
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 5. View all your information and edit as necessary
- Please designate the Orange Dog Park Association to receive the donation. Thank you.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

City Hotline: 714-744-5511

Police: 714-744-7444

Animal Control: 714-935-6848

Local 24 hour Animal ERs

Advanced Critical Care: 949-654-8950

Emergency Pet Clinic – Garden Grove:
714-537-3032

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Hotline
(888) 426-4435.

Orange Dog Park Wishlist located on www.amazon.com

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Go to Amazon.com, select "Gifts and Wish Lists" (line under your name), type in "Orange Dog Park Association" (or any part of it) in the "Find Wish Lists and Registries" and there we are! You can select any item, pay for it, and it will be sent to us. Thank you!

