Keep your dog cool

Warm weather is here and with it comes potentially dangerous situations for your pet. One such hazard involves leaving pets in confined areas (such as a vehicle) during this weather.

Such an incident occurred on May 10, 1992 when an Ontario SPCA inspector removed a poodle from a car which had been parked at the same location for a significant period of time. The vehicle was in the direct sun and the outside temperature was 24 degrees Celsius. The dog appeared lethargic and was staggering. There was no shade, no water was visible and one window was slightly open. The inspector had to break a window in mal in the direct sunlight. Realize

order to rescue the dog. He then gave the animal water to drink poured water over the dog's body, to reduce its elevated body temperature. The canine was immediately transported to a veterinarian. At this time (20 minutes later) the dog's body temperature was degrees

Celsius; his body was dehydrated. The veterinarian administered medication and intravenous fluids, immersed the dog in a cold bath and provided more drinking water. Criminal charges are pending in this case.

The most important factor to consider when providing care for your pet at this time of the year, is common sense. Imagine how uncomfortable you would feel in a hot, unventilated room or car, or tethered in the sun with no shade or water. If you discover an animal that seems to be in need of care, please contact the Ontario SPCA, the nearest humane society or the police as soon as possible.

We, as humans, have the physical ability to regulate our body temperature by sweating. Dogs do not sweat but rather diffuse heat by panting, in which water is evaporated from the tongue. This method of cooling is less efficient. A dog's normal body temperature

is 39 degrees Celsius. A canine can withstand a body temperature of 42 degrees Celsius for only a short time before suffering irreparable brain damage or even death.

Some dogs are more vulnerable to heat stroke or heat exhaustion than others. For example, shortnosed breeds, such as Boxers, Pekingese and Bulldogs, cannot endure a heated environment as well as other breeds. Also dogs that are overweight or not physically fit are at a higher risk of heat stroke.

During warm weather, a dog should be kept in a cool, well-ventilated place. Do not leave the ani-

> a shady area can quickly turn into a sunny one. Ensure your pet always has access to plenty of fresh water, kept in a spillproof container.

> Symptoms of stroke include: excessive panting, increased pulse rate, weakness, muscle tremors, convulsions, vomiting, rapid breathing, anxious or

staring expression, drooling saliva, and tongue and lips may become bluish in color. If you suspect an animal is suffering from heat stroke, immediate care is essential, as the animal could become comatose or even die within a very short period of time.

Please keep your dog at home during the warmer weather and do not take your pet in the car unless absolutely necessary. Temperatures inside a parked, poorly ventilated car rapidly reach well over 40 degrees Celsius on a relatively mild day during the summer, even if the vehicle is parked in the shade.

For a handbill regarding this important topic, contact the Ontario Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at: 16640 Yonge Street, Newmarket, L3Y 4V8; Fax: 416-853-8643. Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope. reatly appreciated.



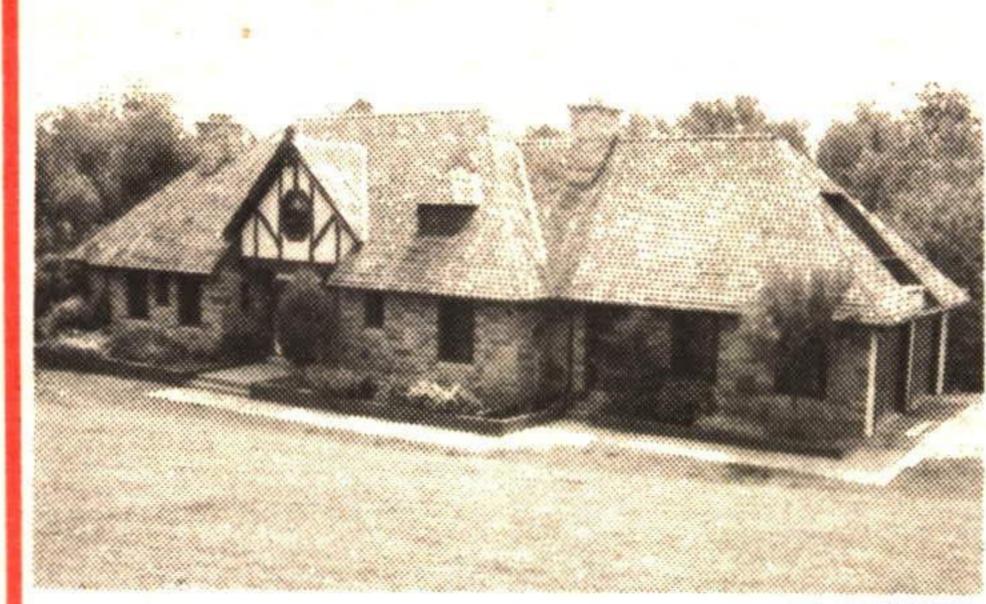
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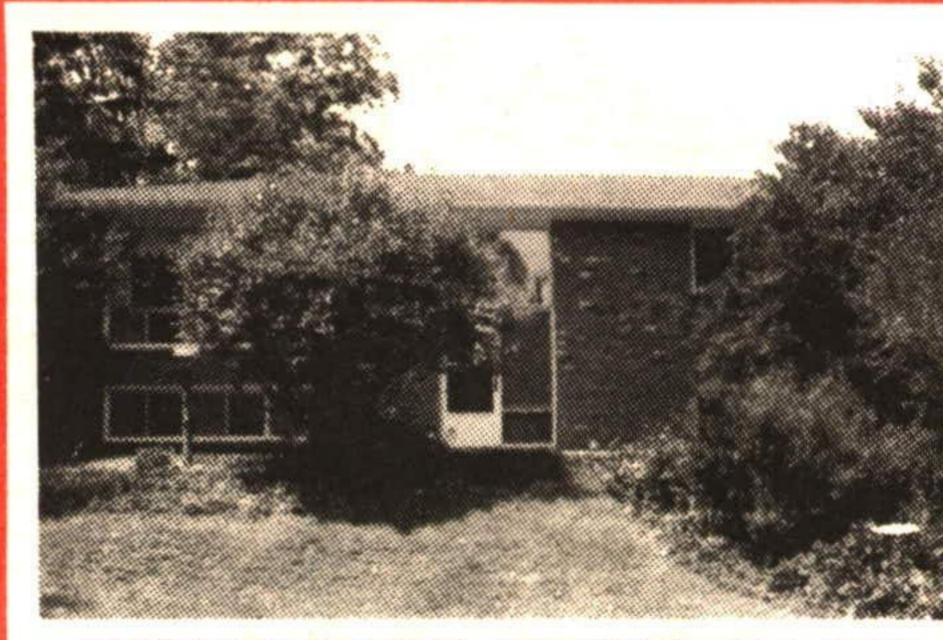
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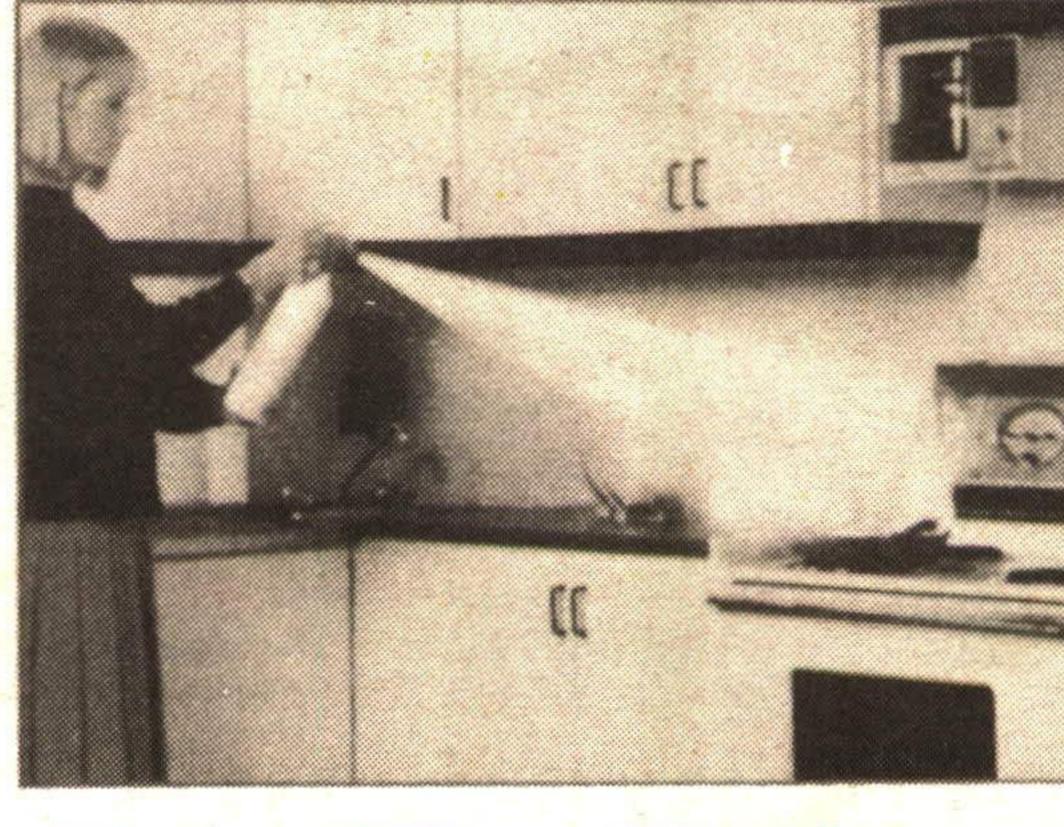
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Portable Fire Extinguishers



Do you know how to use one?

Free Fire Extinguisher Training

Training for members of our community will be held at the Halton Hills Fire Dept. Station at 53 Maple Ave. in Georgetown. The dates and times are as follows:

Session 1 - Wednesday, August 19, 1992 - 1:30 p.m.

Session 2 - Friday, August 21, 1992 - 9:30 a.m.

Session 3 - Tuesday, August 25, 1992 - 1:30 p.m.

Session 4 - Thursday, August 27, 1992 - 9:30 a.m.

Class size is restricted. Sessions will be filled on a first call first confirmed basis. To register call the Halton Hills Fire Department at 877-1133.



Halton Hills Fire Department

Dedicated To Your Protection

