

EDITORIAL

with Dawn Brown

Remember your pets on hot days

While this summer has been notably cooler than last year with fewer heat alerts and more rainy, overcast days, it's important to remember that our pets feel the heat more than we do. Fur coats can make it difficult for animals to manage during the warmer months.

According to petmd.com, there are two main dangers pets face when becoming overheated; hyperthermia and problems with their respiratory system. Petmd.com explains that both dogs and cats will pant in an effort to dissipate heat, panting more quickly as they become overheated and their bodies attempt to maintain a safe internal temperature. Hyperthermia occurs in situations where your pet is trapped and are unable to cool themselves—like inside a car. Dogs with compromised airways like Bulldogs can struggle when panting and wind up generating more heat while trying to cool themselves.

Pets suffering from heat exhaustion can experience excessive panting or laboured breathing, increased heart rate, drooling and weakness, and in more severe cases seizures, bloody diarrhea, vomiting and a body temperature over 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

To avoid heat exhaustion, exercise your pet during cooler times of the day like early morning and evenings. This will make it easier for your dog to breathe and the ground will be cooler on their paws. Without protection, the pads of their feet can burn on hot pavement or even sand. If you and your pet are out during the hotter part of the day, make sure your pet has access to shade.

Do not leave your pet in the car for even a short amount of time. It's both sad and strange that this particular point must be stated again. With all the information available, countless YouTube videos showing how quickly temperatures climb inside a car, and past avoidable tragedies, one would think people would learn. Cracking a window is not enough. Temperatures inside a car on even just a warm, sunny day can quickly climb in excess of 140 degrees Fahrenheit. If an outing will have you leaving your pet alone in the car for even just a few minutes, leave your pet home.

Petmd.com also explains that pets can dehydrate quickly in warm weather. While panting allows animals to cool down, it also evaporates fluids from their respiratory tract. Be sure your pets have access to fresh, clean water—especially if said pet is or has been outside in the heat.

For many of us, our pets are a part of our family, and we can feel a little guilty leaving them home alone when we go out—especially looking into their sad eyes as we ready to leave. However, when the excursion means a wait in the car even for just a short while, or a destination without any relief from relentless sun—like a beach—it's better for everyone if you just leave your pet home with plenty of water.



50 PLUS 1: Hilda Looyenga lined up to give her 50th blood donation (left) beside Jessica Bilton who was there as a first time donor. Hilda was first encouraged to donate blood by her husband years ago, and has continued donating regularly ever since. Jessica has thought about it for a while, and decided that since she had a bit of time last Thursday night, it was time to act. Blood donor clinics in Acton are held between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Legion. - Les Schmidt photos

Unexplained fires raise concerns

It's been almost a year since mysterious fires have sparked throughout surrounding communities, with a few right in our own backyard. To date, there has been almost two dozen unsolved mysterious fires in Rockwood, Erin, Northwest rural Milton, which many consider Acton, and other communities. All of these communities either border our town or are too close for comfort.

The news travels fast when there is a new fire. The wail of sirens can be heard when the fires are burning as area departments band together to assist one another when needed. Just over a week ago, Acton was awakened by the District One crews rushing to the aid of our neighbours. Over the last year, it has become a common sight. More times than I care to remember as I drive into town to go to work in the morning, I see either our Fire Department, Milton or others filling their tanker trucks at one of the designated spots along the highway. If I don't hear the sirens, the vision tells me there is an empty building or



By
Angela Tyler

abandoned barn ablaze without explanation nearby.

The headlines are everywhere from our paper to county newspapers to even the CBC and other larger named media outlets. "Mystery Fires In Wellington"... "OPP Investigating Two More Fires"... "Fire Officials Investigate a String of Fires". There is an endless array of headlines all implying the same thing, and news reports continue to call the fires "suspicious". However, let's say what we are all thinking... there is a fire bug on the loose or, dare we say, an arsonist or arsonists. Last week, three fire crews in Wellington battled four fires in one day. Three of the fire calls were within one hour, two within minutes of one another.

The story of these "suspicious" or "unexplained" fires has all the makings of a movie-of-the-week. The problem is these fires are increasing, and

it's getting too real and too scary. Have you driven down a rural road, noticed an old, dilapidated barn and thought to yourself, "I wonder if that one is next?" When you hear the sirens at sunrise, do you wonder where they are going? When you heard about the fire in the town of Rockwood...not rural Rockwood but in town did it make you pause and worry?

Is there an arsonist, or is there a reasonable explanation for some or all of these "unexplained" fires? Do we need to be concerned? "Police say all the fires are suspicious, although they're still working to prove conclusively whether they are linked." I get they need to prove correlation, however, I think we need and deserve to know more about this investigation. One year, two dozen fires and thankfully nobody injured...yet. The last fire was in town. Was it related? There's nothing so far to say it wasn't. I'm really hoping that investigators can solve the mystery behind these fires and that we can say thankfully nobody was injured...period.



THE NEW Tanner
PUBLISHING LTD.

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.

All articles, advertisements and graphic artwork appearing in The New Tanner is copyrighted. Any usage, reproduction or publication of these items, in whole or in part, without the express written consent of the publisher of The New Tanner is a copyright infringement and subject to legal action.

PUBLISHER: Ted Tyler

EDITORIAL: Dawn Brown, Angela Tyler, Jane Dougan, Vivien Fleisher, Les Schmidt, Harry Rudolfs, Trish Bell

ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION: Marie Shadbolt

PRODUCTION: Iain Brennan, Jessica Wilson

Distributed to every home in Acton and area, as well as adjoining communities.

CONTACT US:

379 Queen Street East
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
Tel: 519-853-0051
Fax: 519-853-0052

E-MAIL:

General: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com
(including Advertising and Circulation)
Editorial: tannereditor@bellnet.ca

DEADLINE: Advertising and Editorial TUESDAY at Noon