



## EVC Times: June 2024

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AND DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR PRACTICE AND COMMUNITY.

PRIMARY + SPECIALTY + EMERGENCY/URGENT CARE

### Hot Tips for a Cool Summer

Summer in the South can be brutal, and we all know it's not just the heat, it's the humidity! Some pets enjoy extreme temperatures, but most of our exotic pets are not native to this type of climate. Here we offer some tips to help keep your exotic pets of all types safe and comfy this season:

**Rabbits** should not be kept in outdoor enclosures. They don't tolerate temperatures over 85 degrees Fahrenheit well and life-threatening overheating can occur rapidly. Ectoparasites like fleas are a major concern, and fly strike is a real problem. Additionally, the threat of RHDV-2 brings increased risk to rabbits permitted outdoors. Every rabbit needs to be fully vaccinated against this most often fatal virus.

You may want to get your **bird** or **reptile** outside on these nice days to enjoy some sunshine, and we encourage that with supervision. Never leave your pet outside alone, as predators like hawks, outdoor/stray cats, snakes, and even insects like ants can quickly become dangerous to them. Make sure your pet is in a secure, well-ventilated enclosure that has a portion in the shade, so your pet can self-regulate its body temperature. Make sure there is cool, fresh water available to drink. A dish big enough to soak or bathe in is a nice addition so they can splash and frolic freely. Watch for indications that your pet may be ready to head back to a more comfortable temperature such as open-mouth breathing, hiding in the shade, or holding the wings away from the body.

Pets permitted to wander the yard may ingest items such as screws, nails, rocks, and other foreign bodies that can be harmful or fatal. Always scout the area thoroughly prior to permitting your little one to roam. Those who forage for grasses or insects like backyard **chickens** or **tortoises** may find themselves biting off more than they can chew in the form of parasites or bad bacteria, so twice-annual intestinal parasite screens are necessary, and should be performed more frequently if you see any change in the stool color, consistency, frequency, or odor.

Pets permitted outdoors may also collect ectoparasites like fleas and mites. We have parasite prevention plans for all kinds of pets to help stop those little biters before they start. Don't forget the mosquitoes that can sneak into your home despite your screens and best efforts. **Ferrets** are particularly prone to heartworms, which are transmitted by mosquito bite and are untreatable and ultimately fatal. Year-round prevention is a must!

Summer is a time for family and fun, and we are here to help you all enjoy it in comfort and safety. Call us with any questions, concerns, and to schedule your pet's wellness exam to make sure your little one is in good shape for the season!



#### BE PREPARED, NOT SCARED!

Hurricane Season is upon us, and as a veteran of storms going back to Hurricane Hugo, our Practice Manager Kerry shares with you her tips for surviving the storm. Click the link below to read more.

<https://birdsandexotics.com/blog/hurricane-season-be-prepared-not-scared>

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