

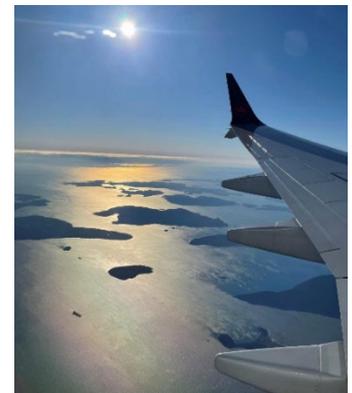


Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Travel Preparedness - Now that summer is here, are you prepared for the unexpected while travelling? Emergency preparedness begins with you and extends to wherever you might be. Know what challenges you might encounter when visiting unfamiliar regions. The emergencies you might face could be health or geographically related. Know the risks, make a plan ahead of time... be prepared.

Quick tips

- Be aware of emergency contact numbers in the area you are travelling.
- Before heading out, complete a trip plan including where you are going, when you will return as well as emergency contact numbers and leave it with friends or family.
- Check your immunizations records and determine what may be recommended for the region you are visiting.
- Check road conditions and weather bulletins. Keep in mind seasons in some regions are different from those you might be familiar with.
- Pack for the weather.
- If you are travelling by vehicle, ensure you have a vehicle emergency kit.
- Always contact family or friends to let them know your situation during any emergency.



Travelling is more fun when you take your pets; however, it does present its own unique challenges.

Tips for Pet Travel

- When travelling by car consider plenty of stops to allow for your pet to stretch and go to the bathroom. Your journey will take longer so it is important to factor this in if you are on a tight schedule.
- Understand the pet policy where you are staying whether it be a hotel, vacation rental or campground.
- Pack accordingly for your pet and don't forget to include extra water, snacks and enough food to allow for an emergency.
- Make sure your pet wears a collar with current identification, including a phone number to reach you in the event they get lost.
- Pack a recent photo and current vaccination records. A photo will help if you are separated from your pet and up-to-date records are required when travelling by air or using a daycare or boarding facility.
- Watch for signs of [dehydration and heatstroke](#).
- Buckle up for safety whether it be a seat belt harness, or a secured pet carrier, they will protect your pets from serious injuries while traveling by car.
- Never leave pets alone in a hot car! They can succumb to heatstroke within 15 minutes.

How to keep your pets safe in the heat

When temperatures soar, the summer months can be uncomfortable for not only people but also for our pets. Keep pets safe and cool this summer with these helpful tips.

Never leave your pets in a parked car

Not even for a minute! Not even with the car running and air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On a 30-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 39 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 49 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die. Learn [how to help a pet left inside a hot car](#) by taking action or calling for help.



Watch the humidity

It's important to remember that it's not just the air temperature, but also the humidity that can affect your pet. Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves and their temperature will rise to dangerous levels. Taking your pet's temperature will tell you if there is a serious problem.

Limit exercise

When exercising your pet, adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours when it is cooler. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk on grass if possible. Remember to always carry water with you to keep your pet from dehydrating.

Don't rely on a fan

Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet and fans don't cool pets as effectively as they do people.

Provide ample shade and water

Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cool water. During a heat wave, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat.

Cool your pet inside and out

Make up a batch of [pupsicles](#) and always provide fresh, cool water, whether your pets are inside or outside. Keep your pet from overheating indoors or out with a cooling body wrap, vest or mat. If your dog doesn't find baths stressful, let them enjoy a cooling soak in a children's pool.

Watch for signs of heatstroke

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Watch for signs of heatstroke, such as heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness. Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds like boxers, pugs, shih tzus and other dogs and cats with short muzzles will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

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How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke

Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Take immediately to a veterinarian. <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/travel-safely-your-pet-car-airplane-ship-or-train>

For more tips and information on keeping pets safe during the summer:

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/keep-your-pet-cool-at-home/>

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/summer-pet-safety/>

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/dogs-sensitive-hot-weather/>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/keep-pets-safe-heat>

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open to the public with full services. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm (except statutory holidays). Although the office is open, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the other payment options including payment through your financial institution; mail a cheque; or drop off a cheque at Town Hall drop box (location below). If you do wish to visit Town Hall to conduct business, masks are recommended while in the building.

- Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
- Phone 250 752-6921
- Post PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7
- Mail Slot Out front of Town Hall, near the fountain
- [Website](#)

In accordance with public health orders from the Province of BC, the Town is pleased to welcome the public to attend to in-person Council meetings. Council and select staff will attend in person, and capacity limits will be monitored, and if required, alternative viewing location(s) will be provided.

City of Parksville

City Hall is open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and our operations department from 8 am to 4 pm and closed noon to 1 pm. Information when visiting:

- Masks are recommended while in the building.
- The public is welcome to attend Council meetings in-person; however, attendance is limited. Meetings are webstreamed live and archived from the City's [website](#).
- If sick or feeling unwell, please stay home.
- Refer to the City [website](#) and [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for more information.

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

[Island Health](#)

[Vaccine info](#) - 1 833 838-2323

Medical COVID-19 information - 811

For more information:

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