Summer offers limitless opportunities to recreate outdoors with your pet. Does anything beat a brisk hike with Fido through alpine meadows brimming with wildflowers? Maybe you prefer cruising the back roads of Montana with Spot’s head out the window, floppy ears billowing in the breeze. But summer also creates a unique set of challenges for pet owners. Heart of the Valley offers the following tips on how to ensure your pet enjoys a safe, active summer season.

**Car Rides:** Responsible pet ownership means knowing when to say “no.” As much as your dog or cat might enjoy a car ride, if your errands involve leaving your pet in a parked car, it’s best to leave it at home. It can take just fifteen minutes for an animal left in a hot car to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation. Even with outside temperatures in the 70s, the interior of a car parked in the shade can quickly reach 90 degrees, while a car parked in the sun can reach 160 degrees in minutes.

**Hiking:** It’s difficult to carry a sufficient amount of water for you and your dog on a long summer hike, so if the trail you’re planning to hike doesn’t feature a creek, lake and/or plenty of shade, leave Fido at home. Consult local hiking guidebooks to find trails that cross year-round streams and wind through a shady forest. Take rest stops at stream crossings to allow your dog to take a long drink and cool down in the water. Remember, an active dog will cover many more miles than you will during your hike.

**Sun Protection:** Pet owners must be cognizant of the dangers of exposure to the summer sun. With the sun high in the sky, there’s no escaping the paw-scalding heat of a hot truck bed. Griddle-hot pickup truck beds (even those with bed liners) are no place for a dog in the summer. In the yard, cats and dogs need to be able to find relief from the sun’s rays, so if you plan to leave your pet outside, make sure there is ample shade available throughout the day.

**Breed-Specific Issues:** Certain pets require special attention during the summer. Short-nosed (brachycephalic) dogs – including Pugs, Boston Terriers, Boxers, Shih-tzus, Bulldogs, King Charles Spaniels, Lhasa Apsos and Shar Peis – are disproportionately prone to heatstroke because their anatomy doesn’t allow them to pant as efficiently as other breeds. Persian cats are also brachycephalic, so owners of Persian cats should monitor their activity level in the summer months. Dark-haired animals absorb heat more rapidly than their lighter-haired counterparts, meaning blondes may indeed have more fun during the summer.

Recognizing the unique challenges that sun and heat pose for your pet is essential. Let’s make sure that the only hot dogs in the Gallatin Valley are those on the grill.
Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter
1549 East Cameron Bridge Road
P.O. Box 11390
Bozeman, MT 59719
Open 11:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays
(406) 388-9399
www.heartofthevalleyshelter.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

There’s an old saying that goes, “A house is not a home without a pet.” Anyone who has ever had a dog or a cat in their life knows how true this is. What is more comforting than a furry friend gleefully welcoming you at the door? What lights up a room more brightly than a puppy bouncing with a toy in tow or a cat rubbing your leg affectionately?

Pets fill our lives with joy, but they are more than just enthusiastic playmates and goofy entertainers; they are our cherished friends in good times and in bad. They leap to protect us, shower us with boundless affection, and listen like no one else. They warm our hearts and heal our spirits.

HOV frequently takes in animals whose path to success is a challenging one, and provides them with what they need to find the love and compassion they deserve. Once HOV takes in an animal, he or she is given the absolute best care possible and so much more than a place to wait until a new home comes along. A full-service veterinary clinic; social and physical enrichment and training; dedicated adoption counselors – all of these are at the disposal of every single animal in our care.

Yet as we take in more and more animals who have nowhere else to go, the time and money required for each of the animals in our care escalates. With the progress we have made comes ever new challenges such as the rising costs of food, medicines and vaccines.

Your ongoing support of Heart of the Valley will help us continue to realize the promise of a puppy or kitten -- a future that is brighter and a world that is safer and kinder to animals – in short, a more humane community. Thank you!

A special thank you to Heart of the Valley’s amazing foster parents:
Mindy Brown, Becky-Jo Flamm, Teresa Ypma, Michelle & Minna Gantt, Jan & Terry Deal, Mike & Mary Ellerd, Cori Harris, Devon Gainer, Larissa Jackiw, Micki O’Neill, and Christine, Fiona & Nora Shaw
Thank you for taking HOV’s special needs pets into your homes, and caring for them as your own!!

WISH LIST

Your donations mean the world to the animals at the shelter!

Pet Supplies
Nutro Max adult dog food
Nutro Max adult cat food
Nylon dog collars
Nylon cat collars
Feliway plug-ins
Kong stuff-it toys
Dog training treats

Cat trees
Canned cat food
Gift cards to pet supply stores

Cleaning Supplies
Powdered laundry detergent
Paper towels

Toilet paper
Bleach

Miscellaneous
Various children’s craft materials
Copy paper

Gift cards to pet supply stores

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**HAPPY TALES ADOPTION STORIES!**

*Beany & Cecil*  
*by Kurt & Susie Wolf*

Saying “thank you” could never be sufficient expression of our gratitude. Adopting the lost lab pups, then named Raggedy Ann and Andy, has awakened the joy in our home that had fallen to sleep by the loss of our beloved “Lilly” last October.

We have named our pups after the 1950’s-1960’s cartoon characters, “Beany & Cecil.” After three days of adjusting, Beany & Cecil came to life, realizing that they had a pretty good thing going on, and suddenly, they were acting like a couple of cartoon characters, so the names just fit and now, so it is.

Beany & Cecil have fully adjusted to their new lives, home and family here in Three Forks. We walk with them around our property several times per day, and just this last week they were finally introduced to our main, large, pasture. They love the freedom of simply running and exploring, while we love the safety our completely fenced in property serves. I have been working with them on the leashes and they now are able to sit, stay, come and heel on command. Beany has a trick of crawling, which is a crack up, so now Kurt has taught her to crawl on command and watching her is truly cartoonish!

Our wonderful pups are growing, adjusting, and loving life out here. They are very happy, very healthy, and honestly, they are the sweetest dogs we have ever known. Oh, and by the way, they remain inseparable, so we are very glad that we decided to take both of them, to keep them together.

Thank you again for our darling labs, we love them very much and will always remember where we got them from!

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**A WAVE OF THE PAW TO...**

Josh and Holly Allen and Dee-O-Gee, for donating proceeds from their DBA coupons to Heart of the Valley.

The Blind Guy, for the great discount on blinds for HOV.

Phyllis Conner, for working tirelessly to feed the feral cat colony at the old shelter site, AND pick up animal banks all over town.

Dr. Loni Odenbeck of Hardaway Veterinary Clinic, for performing a life-saving surgery on a shelter dog (who has since been adopted!).

Bank of Bozeman, for allowing HOV to use their conference room for Executive Committee meetings.

Libby Mock (Bridger Feeds), Dr. Mark Albrecht (Gallatin Veterinary Hospital), Dr. Colin Bonnett (Gallatin Veterinary Hospital), Mike Ross (MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks), Kevin Frey (MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks) and Jennifer Hill (Pawsitive Performance Canine Rehabilitation) for presenting in HOV’s Educational Seminar Series.

Thrive and Murdoch’s Ranch and Home Supply for partnering with HOV to coordinate the “Pups and Pals” program.

Wild Joe’s Coffee for allowing HOV to promote educational programming in their window.

MacKenzie River Pizza for hosting “Pizza for Pets,” and donating a portion of sales to Heart of the Valley.

Dr. Shari Skifstad of All West Veterinary Hospital, for “pinch-hitting” when our shelter veterinarian is away from the office.

Richard Reiley and the members of the Bozeman Lions Club for generously providing and planting 4 new trees for HOV’s Agility Park.

Abby McMillen, Sola Café and tart Boutique (tartique) for hosting and donating a portion of all proceeds from the Folk Dog art shows to Heart of the Valley.

Stifel Nicolaus, for the use of their conference room for Development Committee meetings.

Billy Costigan and poindexters.com, for donating the sound equipment and expertise at the Dog Ball.

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THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!
The Dog Ball is Heart of the Valley’s biggest fundraiser of the year, and it would not be possible without the dedicated group of volunteers who make up the Dog Ball committee! To Violet Adams, Holly Allen, Marcia Anderson, Debby Bangs, Meghan Fay, Erin Feniger, Allison Garwood, Courtney Collins Horn, Lindsey Kurz, Kietra Nelson, Brenda O’Connor and Sue Ritchey - THANK YOU! These women helped out every step of the way, from hand-addressing invitations, to asking for donations, to selecting the meal, to helping out at Riverside for the WHOLE DAY of the event. Ladies, it would not have been possible without you!

The Dog Ball was a resounding success, culminating when those present responded to our very special and urgent request for a new x-ray machine to replace our broken 1980s unit. The response was overwhelming and HOV was able to raise nearly $30,000 toward a new x-ray machine. The following week, a very generous benefactor who had attended the evening’s festivities came forward with the remaining $20,700 - we couldn’t be more thrilled!
Staff’s Pick Pup:  
“Grover”
Grover has some years behind him, but he still has some spunk left! Show Grover a leash and he’ll spark right up. He needs a little work on his leash manners. Grover is very food motivated, so it shouldn’t be too difficult to train him. He would love a quiet home where he could sleep away the day on a cozy bed by the fire.

Kitty Pick of the Litter:  
“BJ”
BJ has been at the shelter since May 26, 2009, but don’t let that scare you off! He is very low energy, more of an observer than a participant, so he would make a nice companion for an older person. BJ seems to get along with all cats. He is a real low key, mellow guy that enjoys spending time walking around on a leash and lap time.

SNICKERS: HOV’s Biggest Loser
Snickers the beagle came in to HOV last summer weighing 70 pounds. Staff fell in love with his sweet temperament, but were worried about his health - Snickers was almost instantly fatigued when he walked from his indoor kennel to his outdoor kennel. Needless to say, staff were THRILLED when he came back in for a visit weighing only 35 pounds - HALF of his former body weight! This just goes to show what a healthy diet and exercise can do!

Weight and Your Pet
Crista DeJoia, DVM

Obesity is one of the leading causes of sickness in the United States, not just for humans but for our pets as well. The health risks for obese pets are much the same as for humans: diabetes, hypertension, osteoarthritis, respiratory disorders, heart disease and many forms of cancer.

So how do you know if your pet is overweight? Here are some simple guidelines. If your pet is a healthy weight you should easily be able to feel his ribs, he should not have a sagging stomach and you should see a waist when viewed from above. Your pet is overweight if it is difficult to feel the ribs under fat or he has a sagging stomach. He may also have a broad, flat back and no waist when seen from above.

Your veterinarian can examine your pet and rule out any medical problems that may be contributing to obesity. He or she will determine an ideal body weight and calculate daily calorie requirements necessary for the pet to lose weight. This may mean a reduced calorie diet, reduction in food amount, or both.

Exercise is an important part of weight loss. In dogs, this means going on brisk walks that gradually increase in length as the pet loses weight. Chasing balls or sticks and swimming are also great forms of exercise. Cats require a bit more creative forms of exercise. Use feather toys, flashlights, paper bags or balls, anything that your cat finds interesting to chase. Try to engage your cat for ten minutes twice a day. There are numerous toys that move and squeak that may also be interesting to your cat.

Multi pet households with an obese pet should feed the pets separately if possible. This eliminates food sharing or stealing. Food should not be left out all the time, and the food bowl can be moved on a regular basis to encourage the pet to move to get his food.

Rechecks and weigh-ins are important to monitor progress. A healthy weight loss should be around one pound per month for cats and one to five pounds per month for dogs, based on their size and the amount they have to lose. Most pets will achieve their weight loss goals in six to eight months.

Weight loss is tough for anyone: two- or four-legged! However, losing weight and getting in shape can add not only years to you or your pet’s life; it can also make those extra years more enjoyable. Shedding a few pounds off of your cuddly canine or feline may be easier than you think. It simply requires understanding the need for weight loss and fitness, attention to details and simple assistance from your veterinary healthcare team.
MEMORIALS

A memorial gift to Heart of the Valley is a thoughtful way to express your sympathy and honor a departed loved one. A Heart of the Valley memorial not only remembers the life of a loved one, it also offers hope and opportunity to the animals at the shelter.

“Gone from our sight, but never our memories. Gone from our touch, but never our hearts.”

Gifts from the Heart...
HONORS

There are many reasons to honor someone you love with a donation to Heart of the Valley. Holidays, birthdays, weddings, or just everyday good deeds can be a reason to celebrate - and transferring that good feeling to direct aid for the shelter animals is the sweetest gift of all!

To the Heart...
COMING SOON!

Volunteer Orientations
Learn all about HOV and about the exciting volunteer opportunities that we offer.
**July 24th, August 7th, and September 4th,**
10 - 11:30 am at HOV. To register, email volunteer@heartofthevalleysheelter.org

Sunday Funday
Join HOV at the Bozeman Brewing Company on **Sunday, July 25th,** from 4 - 8 pm. Fifty cents from each delicious beer you drink will be donated to Heart of the Valley!

Parenting Your Dog
Does your dog eat off the table, jump up on strangers, and pull on its leash? Then we’ve got the course for you! Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter is proud to offer “Parenting Your Canine,” a five-week course taught by HOV’s Canine Behavior Consultant, Ben Donoghue. This course will improve communication between humans and their dogs, as well as providing a foundation in obedience, and preparing participants to become AKC Canine Good Citizens.

Thursday nights - **July 29th - August 26th**
**September 9th - October 7th**
5:30 - 6:30 or 7:00 - 8:00

Woofstock 2010
Celebrate Pets, Love and Happiness with HOV on **Saturday, September 11th,** from 11am - 5 pm. Events include demonstrations, contests, a Kids’ Corral, and much more!

For more information about upcoming events, call (406) 388-9399 extension 112, or email jess@heartofthevalleysheelter.org.

Join Heart of the Valley in celebrating Pets, Love and Happiness on **Saturday, September 11th** from 11:00 - 5:00. Activities will include Dock Diving, Doxie Derby, Bozeman’s Fastest Dog, a Herding Demonstration, Therapy Dogs, the Kids’ Corral, Food, Beer, Pet Idol, and much more! Beat the lines and register for contests online at www.heartofthevalleysheelter.org!

Expect Delays!
Just a friendly reminder that if you’re traveling out to the shelter, you’ll need to build in more time than usual. Road construction on Valley Center Road is ongoing, and traffic in both directions is sometimes halted. Please be patient with this work, which will eventually mean a better route – and don’t let this inconvenience keep you from visiting us at Heart of the Valley.