

Prepare Your Pet For The Outdoors

(NAPSA)—When you're outdoors at work and play, remember to follow these simple steps to keep your furry friends safe and healthy.

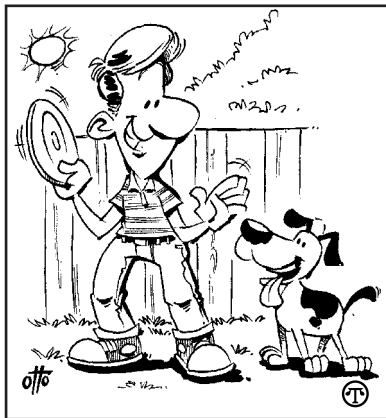
Before letting your pet dash off into the yard, take a walk around and inspect your fence for any damage. Repair any holes or loose areas to eliminate the chance for your pet to get away.

When the season is wet and muddy, pets need extra attention to their coats. Consider a new haircut for your pet. When bathing your pet at home, remember that you don't need to use shampoo every time. Sometimes a good rinse is enough.

Headed out for a brisk walk? Take your pet along. Pets get cabin fever too, and will enjoy the outdoor exercise. Before you head out, examine your pet's leash, and be sure to replace it if it's become frayed or badly worn. Also make sure collars fit properly, and that your pet is wearing an ID tag.

Everyone wants the greenest grass in the neighborhood, but many lawn care products are potentially toxic to pets. Be sure to store these items out of harm's reach. And after treating the lawn and other areas, always restrict pets' access until the danger of exposure has passed.

When gardening, remember that some types of plants—such as hydrangea, wisteria and foxglove—are poisonous for your pets. Know how to identify them and do your best to keep your pet



from "vegetarian dining."

Remember that with an increase in outdoor activity, your pets' chances to pick up fleas are higher. CAPSTAR® (nitenpyram) Tablets from Novartis Animal Health US Inc. are a convenient oral flea treatment available from your veterinarian that begin killing fleas within 30 minutes of administration.

While the occurrence of fleas is often greater in warm weather, it is still important to remember to keep your pet on year-round flea control such as PROGRAM® (lufenuron) Flavor Tabs®. Because there's no mess, no odor and no drying time associated with using this medication, it's virtually effortless to administer and makes it easy to adhere to a regular flea-control regimen.

Keep all of these tips in mind, and you and your pets can enjoy the outdoors while staying safe, healthy and flea-free.