



10 TIPS TO KEEP PETS SAFE IN GREEN VALLEY



RATTLESNAKE
TRAINING



VISIT YOUR VET!



PETS AND HOT
CARS ARE NO NO'S

AND MORE!

10+ TIPS TO KEEP PETS SAFE IN GREEN VALLEY

Green Valley is a beautiful community but is also in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, and therefore home to wild animals that live and travel in the washes, arroyos, and look for heat relief and water in our patio, home, or garages with doors left open. Pets are particularly vulnerable.

1. PREDATORS

Hungry hawks, owls, coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions can snatch your cat or small dog when they're outside, even in your walled patio. Veterinarians urge residents of Southern Arizona to keep cats indoors. Mountain lions' prey include horses and cattle, so even the largest dogs are vulnerable.

When you let your dogs out in your patio, *be visible with them* so predators are more likely to stay away. Danger can strike fast. The most dangerous times of day are at dawn and dusk when predators are out searching for prey, but they can strike at any time.

2. RATTLESNAKES

For your dogs' safety and per Pima County's dog leash law [AZ - Leash Laws - Article 6. Animal Control. | Animal Legal & Historical Center \(animallaw.info\)](#) *keep them on leash whenever you walk them*, even if they come when called. Dogs that sniff under bushes and rocks have been killed by rattlesnakes resting in shade. In case of a snake bite, do not waste time trying to extract the poison (which doesn't work)! Go *immediately* to your vet or a 24-hour animal emergency center in Tucson (there are no vet 24-hour emergency centers in Green Valley as of 2022).

Snake Avoidance Training: desertwildlifeservices.com 520-743-1411 OR
Green Valley Canine 520-399-1132 greenvalleycanine.com

24 HOUR ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTERS IN TUCSON

Southern AZ Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center,
Broadway location only: 7474 E Broadway Blvd, 520-888-3177

Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson
4909 N La Canada Drive in Tucson, 520-795-9955

3. JAVELINAS

Javelinas are wild animals (peccaries) that look like hairy black pigs. They can and have attacked humans and dogs, especially if the javelina is a mother with babies. Our veterinarians have seen even large dogs that have been horribly injured or killed here in Green Valley. Again, keeping your dogs on leash (no longer than 6 feet) helps keep them safe. Always walk *away* from javelinas.

If you walk your dog when it's dark (*not* recommended), use an extra-bright flashlight to be able to spot a snake or javelinas in your path.

4. CACTUS

Another reason to keep your dogs on leash is to help them avoid walking on painful, tiny cactus spines on the ground – especially from the cholla (pronounced “choi – ya”). They cause sharp, burning pain and cling to whatever they touch. If it happens, use a small-toothed comb and gently comb the cactus spines out. It may be necessary to use tweezers, or take your pet to a vet.

5. HEAT STROKE AND BURNS

In Arizona the pavement gets so hot, it can cause serious burns to your dog's paw pads. Walk your dog during the times of the day when the pavement is relatively cool. To prevent injury, test the pavement by putting your bare foot or palm of your hand on the pavement and hold it there for several seconds. Veterinarians here say, “If it's too hot for you to walk on barefoot, it's too hot for your dog.”

6. LEAVING A DOG UNATTENDED IN A PARKED CAR

It is against the law in AZ to leave your pet unattended in a car even if it seems “cool enough” to you (AZ Revised Statutes 13-2910). Too many pets have died while the owner went into a store “just for a few minutes,” even with the windows rolled halfway down. This is considered animal cruelty, and the penalty can include fines and jail time.

Under **Arizona's Samaritan Hot Car Law**, anyone can legally rescue a pet who is confined in a locked, parked car if 1)they've judged the animal to be at risk, 2)they've called 911 or other first responder before entering the car, 3)tried the car door first before breaking into the car, and 4) stayed with the animal until the officer or first responder arrived (AZ Revised Statutes 12-558.02). The rescuer is not liable for property damage if they followed these 4 steps.

7. HIKING WITH YOUR PET

If you're taking your canine on a hike, bring plenty of water for them as well as for yourself. Hike only in the coolest parts of the day. Heat stroke is fatal without immediate treatment. In general, make sure your pets always have plenty of fresh water and relief from the sun.

Signs of *heat exhaustion* in dogs: restlessness, excessive panting, pacing, bright red gums, rapid heart rate, collapsing. Call your vet. The pet needs shade or air conditioning, pour cool (not cold) water on his body (not his face), and fans help.”

Signs of *heat stroke*: wobbly or “drunk” walking, drooling, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, seizure. Immediately seek emergency treatment! Heat stroke can be fatal.

8. TOXIC WEED KILLER

Landscaping companies often use a blue-colored weed killer (Clean-Up, an industrial strength form of Round-Up is common). The ASPCA poison control toxicologists recommend keeping pets from walking on areas treated with herbicides until the areas are dry. To be on the safe side, wash your pet's paws if they walk on the treated area (*even* if dry) to help them avoid ingesting the chemicals when they lick their paws.

9. RABIES: BATS, SKUNKS, AND FOXES

There are many species of bats here in Arizona, and many have rabies. Sometimes bats can get inside your house. If you see your dog or cat with one, take your pet to the vet *immediately!* Arizona state law requires dogs *and* cats to be vaccinated for rabies, even if they are indoors only (AZ Revised Statute Title 11, Chapt 7, Article 6.11-1012).

10. COLORADO RIVER TOAD

Found in the Sonoran Desert. Pets come into contact with toads that surface from underground in the rainy seasons. If the pet licks the toad or puts it in his mouth, symptoms of poisoning include: crying, pawing at his mouth or eyes, drooling, red or pale gums, difficulty breathing, unsteady movements, seizures, collapse. Take your pet *immediately* to your vet or 24-hour emergency care.

11. VALLEY FEVER

Valley Fever is a respiratory infection caused by inhaling spores of a fungus that is found in the soil. When soil is disturbed by scratching or digging, or by high winds, humans and animals can inhale the spores that infect the lungs. It is *not* contagious. If the immune system is strong, the person or animal doesn't get sick. If not, early symptoms in dogs include a dry, hacking cough, loss of appetite and weight loss, lack of energy, and fever. As of August 2022, a promising vaccine is being developed, but there is no cure or vaccine yet. However, there IS anti-fungal medication. Without treatment, the disease can attack other parts of the body and can lead to death. <https://www.petmd.com/dog/general-health/valley-fever-dogs-everything-you-need-know>

12. GETTING LOST

Thunderstorms and 4th of July fireworks are events that often scare dogs into fleeing. Even little dogs can climb or jump over patio walls when panicked. Dogs left in hot cars on parking lots are highly motivated to jump out and run. During a move or house repairs when doors are being opened and closed also increase the risk. *Getting lost in the Sonoran Desert can be a death sentence*, even if they survive busy traffic intersections. Have your pet ID micro-chipped by your vet and get an ID tag for your pet's collar.

If your pet is lost, contact:

The Animal League of Green Valley 520-625-3170
Open every day 10:00a.m.– 2:00pm
They have a special program to help find lost pets.

Pima Animal Care Center in Tucson: 520-724-7222

Lost and Found Pets in Pima County, AZ: [Lost and Found Pets - Pima County](#)

13. PICK UP YOUR POOCH'S POOP

Consideration for your fellow neighbors is important. One of the commandments of responsible dog ownership is, "Thou shalt scoop thy dog's poop" whether it's on common ground, a park, or alongside a walking path or sidewalk – anywhere that is not your own property. Carry a bag with you on your dog walks. Don't leave home without it!