



A walk in the park in Surrey...



Vets Now celebrates the arrival of warmer weather with the best dog-friendly days out from Surrey

The UK's leading provider of emergency veterinary care for small animals in the UK, [Vets Now](#), which has emergency out-of-hours clinic in Guildford, Farnham, Reading and Staines in Surrey, sees one of its busiest times when the weather warms up, with vets seeing a higher caseload of emergencies over the summer months.

With bright, sunny days luring people and their pets out into the great outdoors, the expert team of vets and nurses see more road traffic accidents, cat fights, dog bites, allergic reactions and cases of heat stroke.

To ensure pets can stay safe and enjoy the sunshine, Vets Now has released their top 10 favourite dog-friendly activities that you can reach easily from Surrey, plus the top summer hazards for pet owners to look out for.

Zara Kennedy, district vet for the Vets Now emergency clinics in Surrey said: "With summer weather rolling around, we naturally venture into the great outdoors more frequently. It's only fair that our pets come with us too, to get some exercise and fresh air. However, heat isn't the only problem pets have to deal with over the summer months. From burns, to strong waves, and parasites, there are a number of hazards that should be considered.

"It's essential you're aware of what to do when faced with a pet emergency, especially when it's out of hours or your local vet may be closed for spring bank holidays. Whilst we are always here to give your pets the best possible care in the event of an emergency, we would like to help in any way we can to prevent these emergencies from ever happening in the first place. Which is why we've compiled our dog-friendly day out guide, along with common summer hazards to watch out for."



The Vets Now top 10 dog-friendly activities for summer:

- 1. Wonderful walks through time:** Something of a national treasure for dog owners up and down the county, our dog-friendly days out list wouldn't be complete without a nod to the National Trust. They've compiled a [handy guide](#) of fantastic locations and landscapes for you and your four-legged friend to explore in Surrey. With a huge variety of woodland and countryside walks to explore in Surrey including Hatchlands Park, Winworth Arboretum and Runnymede, grab your walking boots and plan your adventure!
- 2. Have a bark in the park:** Looking to get active and raise money for a good cause whilst still involving your pooch? Look no further than Dog Jog. Taking place from July – October at over 20 locations throughout the UK, including Brighton and London, Dog Jogs are a fantastic opportunity for you and your canine companion to get some fresh air and exercise with other dogs. Find out more at www.dogjog.co.uk
- 3. Blooming marvellous days out:** One of the UK's leading garden centres, Dobbies, which has a number of centres in the South East including Reading, Beaconsfield and Woodcote Green has operated a dog-friendly policy in all garden centres since early 2016. Welcoming well-behaved pooches, fresh drinking water is provided at their dedicated Dog Drinking Station. Alongside gorgeous summer blooms, they also have a large pet section – meaning you can stock up on pet food, accessories and more. Find out more [here](#) and find your nearest centre.
- 4. We do like to be beside the seaside:** There is no better way to spend the weekend than out exploring the glorious South East coastline. According to the Vets Now [Beach Guide](#), the South East has some of the most dog-friendly beaches in the UK. Top dog-friendly picks include Milford-on-Sea beach in Hampshire and Cooden Beach in East Sussex.
- 5. Did somebody say doggy room service?:** TripAdvisor voted the [White Horse Hotel](#) in Dorking as 2019's pet-friendly Surrey hotel of the year. This beautiful old coaching inn with its old oak beams, open log fires and inviting lounge has 56 ensuite rooms and our beloved four-legged friends are welcome. For extra bow wow factor, your pooch will be welcomed with a doggy bowl and a treat. The Surrey Hills start just five minutes from the hotel, with endless walks to enjoy with your canine companion.
- 6. Pooch-friendly pubs:** The Telegraph named [The Alford Arms](#), Frithsden, Nr. Hemel Hempstead as one of the UK's top-25 friendly pubs. A hamlet enfolded by acres of National Trust common land, this pub is heaven for dogs and walkers. There's a path into Ashridge Forest right outside the door, with thousands of acres of ancient beech woods. Top up on delicious food and head out with the dogs for a walk. Owners provide dog treats and welcome dogs to chill out in the bar.



7. **Festival ready:** Festival season is around the corner and there are now a number of events that welcome well behaved pups. [Standon Calling](#) returns from the 25th – 28th July 2019 in Hertfordshire and since the festival began in 2005 they have welcomed thousands of dogs to enjoy a fun-packed weekend with their owners. They proudly claim to be the most dog-friendly festival in the UK, with an annual dog show - categories include, 'Dog with the Waggiest Tail', 'Looks Most Like Owner' and many other prizes.
8. **For a fancy treat:** [Ascot Park Polo Club](#) in Cobham welcomes doggies. The polo grounds are set in beautiful countryside, away from main roads, and bordered by shrubbery. Dog drinking water is readily available and the on-site caterer often has 'dog queues' for the sausages. The polo fields and pony areas are not fenced off from the public and so dog-owners are asked to keep their dogs away from the pony-lines and off the polo fields whilst polo is in play, otherwise dogs are free to roam free!
9. **Find your inner zen:** at [Real Dog Yoga](#). The Real Dog Yoga is a new method of teaching calming techniques to relax both you and your dog. Offering classes across Surrey, each week yoga trainers build on creating calmness whilst also teaching a posture and expression. During the classes dogs and their owners are taught duration training, precision as well as chaining sets and sequences to balance the canine body and mind. Namaste!
10. **Pawfect staycations:** Although pet passports make travelling with pooches easier, if you want to get away from it all but not have to journey too far to do so, a staycation is the perfect solution. [Canine Cottages](#) offers a whole host of dog-friendly stays, from the Scottish Highlands to the Yorkshire Dales, saving you time trawling through holiday cottages dog policies.

Vets Now's top-7 summer dangers that could make your dog ill.

If you'd rather avoid a trip to one of Vets Now's out-of-hours pet emergency clinics or 24/7 hospitals this summer then beware of these common dangers:

1. Hot Weather

Danger: Exercising your dog too much or leaving them in the car, conservatory or an enclosed space after a sudden rise in temperature can lead to potentially fatal heat stroke.

How to avoid: Never walk your dog during the hottest parts of the day, and never leave them in a confined space for any length of time.

2. Plants and flowers



Danger: Several flowers and plants that are popular in the summer are potentially toxic to dogs, including poppies, clematis, peony, foxglove, geranium, chrysanthemum, oleander and yew.

How to avoid: If you're not sure whether your plants are safe, keep a close eye on your dog in the garden and around house plants.

3. Rat poison

Danger: Rodenticide is designed to taste nice to rats but, unfortunately, dogs also like it for the same reason. Some types can cause severe internal bleeding as well as vomiting, fits and changes in body temperature.

How to avoid: If you have a serious vermin problem, opt for a pet-friendly option to get rid of it

4. Barbecues

Danger: In the summer, barbeque-related incidents — such as swallowing kebab skewers, eating cooked bones, food poisoning, and burn injuries — account for a surprisingly large number of admissions to Vets Now clinics.

How to avoid: Always keep raw and cooked barbeque food out of reach and make sure your dog is under supervision once the barbeque has been lit

5. Compost and cocoa mulch

Danger: Used to fertilise gardens, these are both potentially lethal for dogs. Compost is full of highly toxic mould while cocoa mulch contains poisonous theobromine.

How to avoid: Make sure compost bins are kept well out of reach and only ever use cocoa mulch sparingly, if at all.

6. Weed killer

Danger: Many of the herbicides gardeners use to kill weeds and unwanted plants are dangerous if swallowed, licked or even brushed against.

How to avoid: Read the instructions carefully and don't use if there's a potential risk

7. Fish Hooks

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Danger: Dogs are often tempted to swallow the shiny lure and tasty bait that's attached to fish hooks. But these can cause nasty injuries if embedded in the mouth, stomach or paws.

How to avoid: Fish hooks are often discarded by inconsiderate fishermen so be on your guard in areas where fishing is popular.

If you're worried your dog is sick or injured, contact your vet as soon as possible, or find your nearest [Vets Now pet emergency clinic or Vets Now 24/7 hospital](#).

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For media: For free-to-use video content, visit <https://www.vets-now.com/summer/> please backlink Vets Now in return. Please also see the attached infographic, which can also be used FOC.

For additional expert comment, product enquires, further information or high-resolution images, please contact:

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Vets Now notes to editor:

- Vets Now was established in 2001 and is the leading provider of emergency veterinary care for companion animals in the UK.
- With 24/7 Pet Emergency Hospitals in Glasgow, Manchester and Swindon, and 59 out-of-hours clinics nationwide, Vets Now is committed to delivering a responsive emergency and critical care service for cats, dogs and other small animals.
- Vets Now also partners with more than 1,400 veterinary practices across the UK to provide their clients with a seamless out-of-hours emergency care service.
- Vets Now employs over 1000 staff.
- Vets Now remains at the forefront of emergency veterinary care through its commitment to clinical excellence and training, employing many of the country's top Emergency & Critical Care Specialists.