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PAW'S CORNER

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By Sam Mazotta

Hot pavement is a danger to pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Walking around the farmer's market this weekend, I confronted several people who brought their dogs into the market despite clear signage saying pets aren't allowed. The reason for the sign is that the pavement is **HOT!** Summer temperatures regularly reach 90 to 100 degrees or more. All the dogs were limping and whining because the pads on their paws were burning! Please tell your readers to leave their pets at home and respect signs that say no pets. —
Jeremy C. in Denver

DEAR JEREMY: Absolutely! Folks, please know that pavement on a hot summer day is 40 to 50 degrees higher than the air temperature. On a hundred-degree day, pavement can reach 150 degrees Fahrenheit. In seconds, that kind of heat can cause second- and third-degree burns on a dog's paws.

Add to that the issue of ignoring "no pets" signs. The venue put up that sign for good reasons. Failure to respect that sign puts the pet owner at risk of footing the bill for any damage or injuries their dog might cause. Good pet owners respect the rules.

In the meantime, test the pavement before taking your dog out on it. Put your hand on the sidewalk or even your bare foot. If it's uncomfortably hot for you, it'll be just as bad for your dog.

Walk pets in the early morning or late in the evening. Inspect their paws after every walk for tender spots. If your dog's paws sustain a heat injury, stand them in cool water or place a cool, damp pad on each paw — don't use ice. Take them to the emergency vet if you see blisters or your dog is visibly limping.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.