



Summer Treats for your dog

by Sarah of Clever Creatures

Let's make the most for the last few months of summer and the warm weather with our dogs. We don't need to walk our dogs daily; but we do need to give them a variety of mental and physical enrichment activities or exercise. Here are a few of my favourite summer suggestions.

Freeze layered ice blocks into a cup; Freeze layers of tasty treats for your dog to enjoy. Have a few cups in the freezer on the go and add treats and layers over a number of days. When adding treats, you can add a bit of water; but broth and low salt stock will be softer. It's good to have a variety of layers for your dog to enjoy. For example: start with a bit of pet milk, then once frozen, layer a small amount of brine or spring water from your tin of tuna or salmon, after this freezes add a bit of bone broth or low salt stock. After a few hours or the next day add some natural yoghurt, then once frozen add a few of your dog's favourite treats (even dried liver freezes well) or some leftover meat; cover this with just enough water and then once frozen you may add on another layer. Or you may be crafty and leave the dried liver sticking out above the frozen layers. By keeping a few in the freezer you can also top up as you have leftovers from lunch or dinner. Take the ice block out of the cup before service to your dog & serve outside in the shade!

Pet milk or natural yoghurt in ice cube trays – Freeze and tip out onto the grass for them to enjoy when you go to work.

Cold or Icy Kongs™ – The Classic Kong™ dog toy can be stuffed with your dog's food the night before and pulled straight out of the fridge before heading to work. You may also freeze a small amount of bone broth or low salt stock (or pet milk) in the bottom and when ready to use just top it up with some fresh treats. For the full Kong™ article see the resources page (under K) on our website: www.clevercreatures.com.au

Clamshell or similar wading pool – Place in the shade and fill with a small amount of water for your dog to enjoy (use caution if children or puppies have access).

Cooling neck bands or a cooling vest – on a warm morning or evening place a cooling neckband around your dog's neck when you walk them. Use under supervision. These are available for humans but fit nicely on dogs. You soak them in water for a few minutes then squeeze the excess water out. The evaporation causes cooling and they are reusable. The cooling vest for dogs is also a good idea but I wouldn't leave it on unless your dog is supervised.

Cool walks – Include the river, beaches, shaded parks or a friend with aircon! Remember that you are wearing shoes and your dog is not. Be sure to keep your dog on a cool surface when walking.

Slept in? – Maybe visit a dog friendly coffee shop or bar if it was too warm by the time you got out of bed.



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The Rucksack walk – Drive your dog in air-conditioned comfort to a quiet shady place with your long lead and a backpack full of goodies; see online for more info (search the rucksack walk).

Doggy Pool – Dog pools are available for hire by the hour or in a 30 minute block. Often called therapy pools it's a great way to give your dog a variety of exercise which is also undercover.

Hot inside? Get your dog a portable fan. I use a Ryobi with a rechargeable battery. The fan blades are protected and this is small and portable. At the perfect height for your dog, but can also be placed out of the way and angled down to their sleeping area.

Hot outside? You can buy cooling mats for your dog. Not all dogs like to lay on them though. Can also use the portable fan outside.

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