



Summertime Chic...Photo by Sharayah Boyce

### Cool Summer Pooch by Twilla R. Boyce, WFSC Vice-President

With the warm weather upon us, it is a good time to think about keeping our canine companions cool and the study of their wild ancestors can provide us with effective methods to prevent heat induced stresses.

- ❖ Walk dogs in the cooler morning and evening hours
- ❖ Provide shelter with ample shade throughout the day
- ❖ Provide a reliable source of water in large tip-proof containers
- ❖ Avoid rambunctious play during hot weather

Dogs with short muzzles such as Boxers, Bulldogs and Pugs are especially susceptible to heat distress as their shortened snouts do not allow for sufficient cooling of the exterior air as it is drawn into the lungs. If your dog shows signs of distress, use tepid water to wet the chest, abdomen, legs and paws to offer immediate relief. Seek medical attention from a veterinarian. Some signs of heat exhaustion are:

- ❖ Agitation with increased vocalization
- ❖ Excessive drooling
- ❖ Difficulty Breathing
- ❖ Heavy Panting
- ❖ Weakness or lethargy
- ❖ Vomiting

#### *NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR ON WARM DAYS!*

It only takes a few minutes for the temperature to double and tinted windows or slightly open windows only serve to briefly delay the increasing heat. A dog's only means for cooling themselves is panting, and sweating through their paws. These methods are not sufficient enough to counteract the effects of high temperatures. Meeting the needs of your dog during warm weather goes a long way in keeping them healthy and happy.