

WATER WATCH

Supervise – Close / Constant / Focused

Supervise

Courtesy: RoyalLife Saving Brochure

Be prepared, within arms' reach, all of your attention, all of the time.

Many drowning deaths in children under 5 occur in a few seconds when parents are distracted by a knock on the door or a phone call.

Active supervision is essential in protecting your child from drowning.

Supervision is required when children are in, on, or near water sources such as bathtubs, fish ponds, dams, creeks, rivers and water features.

Restrict Access-Fence / Gate / Maintain

Maintain your pool barrier and gate, provide a child safe play area.

Creating a barrier between your child and the body of water is one of the most effective ways of preventing drowning. Pool fencing has shown to save children from drowning. Fencing must isolate the water body (including swimming pools, spas and wading pools) from the house and should be regularly maintained with a gate that self-closed and self-latches. Any climbing objects should be removed.

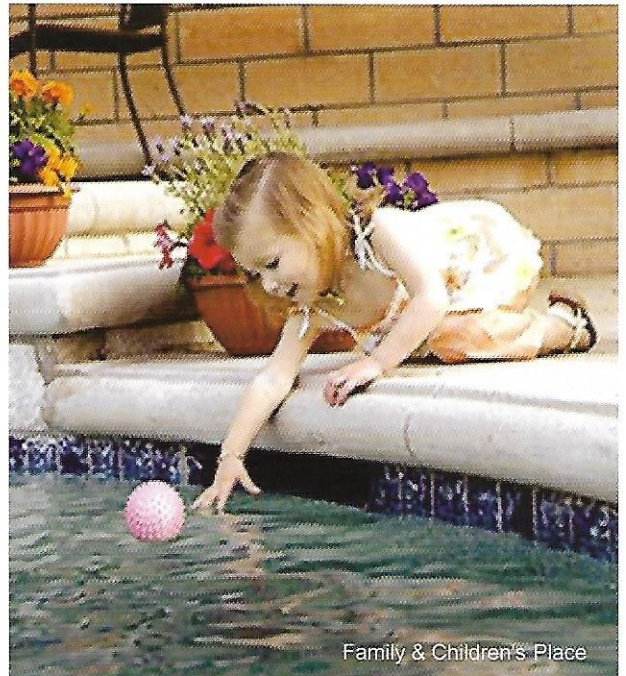
Please visit: www.homepoolsafety.com.au for your home pool safety checklist.

Water Awareness - Familiarise / Develop/ Educate

Enroll your child and experience water together.

Help educate and develop lifelong skills together.

Helping your child familiarise themselves with water can be fun for both you and your child. Water awareness classes build confidence and introduce children to basic water safety. When attending a new aquatic venue, become aware of your environment and create a set of rules, e.g. no going near the water unless an adult is present.



Resuscitate - Learn / update / act

Many children today are alive because their parents knew how to perform resuscitation and were able to respond quickly.

Resuscitation is a life skill. Immediate resuscitation is also vital for preventing long-term neurological impairment associated with drowning.

Please visit: www.royallifesaving.com.au or phone 1300 737 763 for more information.



In an Emergency Call 000 or Mobile 112 (no pin numbers required)

or ring 131 444 for non urgent calls.



How to Avoid Locking Your Child in the Car

Distraction can be deadly on the road, and off the road it can cause drivers to lock their keys, and sometimes a child, inside their car.

In an RACV survey taken last summer, 47.5 per cent of respondents who had locked themselves out of their car said that they were distracted by their phone or talking, or accidentally left their keys either in the boot or a bag. "Accidental lock-outs can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere," says RACV's Manager of Safety and Education, Elvira Lazar. "Memory slip-ups are natural, and it is common to forget where our keys are."

In 2017, RACV rescued an average of four children trapped in cars every day, with the vast majority of incidents accidental. Elvira says that even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 to 30 degrees hotter than outside. Most of this temperature increase happens within minutes. Young children's bodies heat up three to five times faster than older children and adults, so if they are accidentally locked in a car, this can be dangerous for them.

Tips to avoid locking your children in the car:

- Wind your windows down before putting children in the car in case the car automatically locks
- Never give your keys to children to play with because they can accidentally lock the car
- Avoid getting distracted when you're loading and unloading the car
- Have an easy way to hold on to your keys to avoid locking you keys in your car this summer.

Is it OK to leave children in the car on a cool day while paying for petrol at a service station?

The rule for leaving children unattended in any situation falls under the Children, Youth and Families Act (2005). The adult in charge needs to ensure reasonable supervision and care of a child, taking into account the circumstances of the situation.

The penalties for leaving a child unattended in a car in Victoria include a fine (currently \$4030), or a maximum of six months' imprisonment, or both.

To avoid the situation described above, the best advice is to do the petrol run when there aren't children in the car.

Elvira Lazar, RACV Manager, Safety and Education

Tips for Healthy Pets in Summer

Summer is here and the warmer weather brings risks for our pets. Vets see many pets come in at this time of year because they are out and about with their owners as they travel, garden, and generally spend more time outdoors. Make sure you know where your local vet is in case of emergency. And if you can, get the details of nearby animal emergency clinics, which are usually open 24/7, even on Sundays and public holidays.



Bee and Wasp Stings

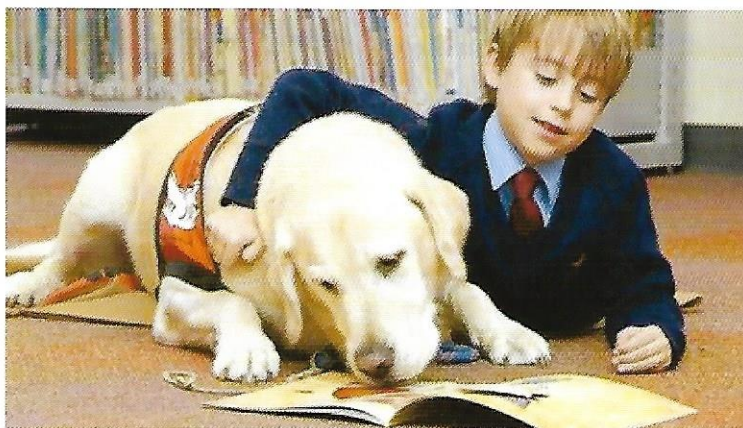
These can lead to pain and swelling at the site of the sting. Dogs are often bitten on the face as they are curious creatures and love investigating. Look for the sting and remove it if possible. If your pet will let you, place an ice pack wrapped in a damp cloth on the site of the bite to reduce pain and swelling. Some pets can have an anaphylactic reaction to a sting and this can be life threatening. If you notice severe facial and/or neck swelling, difficulty breathing, excessive salivation, vomiting or collapse, seek veterinary advice immediately.

Snail and Slug Bait

This is very attractive to pets and is highly toxic. Ingestion of even small quantities can be rapidly fatal. Products that claim they are 'safe for pets' generally aren't - they have a bitter taste but this works as a deterrent for only some pets. Others will still eat these baits, so consider whether they are absolutely necessary in your garden or even in your shed. Signs to look for are tremors and seizures.

If your dog has accidentally ingested snail bait, bring the bait in the packet to the vet so they can see exactly what the active ingredient in the poison is. For a safer option to keep pests at bay, a deep container of beer that your dog can't access will kill snails and slugs.

Story Dogs



Learning to read is often less about intellectual limitation than about overcoming fears. "Fear can destroy intelligence," says educator William Ayers. Animals are ideal reading companions because they promote relaxation and lower blood pressure, do not judge, laugh or criticise and allow children to proceed at their own pace.

Story Dogs is based on the successful American literacy program, Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.). The R.E.A.D. program was launched in 1999 in Utah, USA, as the first comprehensive literacy program built around the appealing idea of

children and young adolescents reading to dogs.

Reading sessions take place in a quiet area of the school grounds, such as the library or outside the classroom. A reading session is approximately 20 minutes long, where each child is one-on-one with the dog team. Books are chosen to suit the student's reading level.

During the session, the handler often speaks through the dog, such as; "Sam doesn't understand what is happening on this page, could you help him out?" The child becomes the teacher as they help the dog understand, and their confidence soars.

Our volunteers come with fun, interesting books that are specifically chosen for beginner readers. The students also have input into what they read. We encourage the students to write letters to the dogs between reading sessions, further encouraging literacy skills.

The children are usually Year 2 students, generally between seven-and eight-years-old who are chosen by the school. We do not take children below Year 1.

Story Dogs does not assess the children in any way, as the sessions are designed to be as fun and non-threatening as possible. We rely on assessment results taken by the school.

Parental consent is required before a child can participate in the program.

Story Dogs handlers are volunteers trained to help emergent readers. The handler will not judge the child and will help in a non-threatening way. We are fully insured and our handlers have Working with Children Checks as per each State's regulations.

When children read to a dog, the outcomes are amazing! It is a non-judgemental setting, the children's focus improves, their literacy skills increase and their confidence soars. The accepting, loving nature of dogs gives this program its magic and helps children relax, open up, try harder and have fun while reading to a friendly, calm dog.

Do You Know the Road Rule Regarding School Crossings?

Children's crossings are only in operation when flags are displayed. When flags are displayed, drivers must not proceed through the crossing if children or adults are still on the crossing or about to start crossing. This is the law regardless of the presence of a crossing supervisor.



When children's crossings flags are not displayed, pedestrians should give way to passing road traffic.

Drivers should always use caution when approaching children's crossings when children are present. Not every child will know or remember the different rules.

Students Hit The Road To Zero With New Safety Complex

Victorian students will start their journey to becoming safer drivers well before they hit the road following the opening of Victoria's world-first road safety education complex. Minister for Roads and Road Safety Luke Donnellan joined the Transport Accident Commission and Museums Victoria today to officially open the \$55 million Road to Zero Education Complex at the Melbourne Museum.

Young people are some of Victoria's most vulnerable road users so it's critical that we find new ways to get them thinking about safety before getting their licence. TAC research shows young drivers aged 18 to 25 accounted for 24 per cent of deaths on Victoria's roads last year.

The complex will feature the latest in visual and digital technology to help students and the wider community understand their own vulnerability, the role of speed in crashes and the importance of safer vehicles. Designed to ensure students don't feel stuck in a classroom, interactive learning studios will allow students to complete practical tasks that link with their health and science curriculums.



Students in years 9 and 10 will start visiting the Road to Zero in term four, with more than 20,000 students expected to flock to the complex in its first year. A regional outreach program will ensure students across the state who are unable to access the complex in Melbourne don't miss out.

Road to Zero is the cornerstone of the Andrew's Labor Government's \$146 million Young Driver Safety Package which aims to reduce road trauma among young people and cement Victoria as a leader in road safety education.

The complex was developed by the Transport Accident Commission in partnership with Museums Victoria and was co-designed with road safety and teaching experts.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Roads and Road Safety Luke Donnellan - "The earlier we can start a conversation around road safety – in classrooms, on-road or amongst friends and family, the better equipped young Victorians will be to drive safely. We know young people learn best when material is presented in an interactive and engaging way, and that's exactly what this world leading centre will deliver."

Quote attributable to TAC Chief Executive Officer Joe Calafiore - "In their first year of driving, young drivers in Victoria are almost four times more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious injury crash than more experienced drivers. That's why it's so important to teach safe driver behaviour, to all Victorians, at an early age."

Quote attributable to Museums Victoria Chief Executive Officer Lynley Marshall - "We are delighted to be presenting this important exhibition at Melbourne Museum. The result is a world-first learning experience for young adults that uses immersive technology to explore the physics of motion and the limits of the human body."

