



Paw Prints

Jodi Schneider McNamee
Columnist

Wildfire smoke can affect your pets

We aren't used to smoke hanging thickly in the air, and many folks are naturally concerned about the health implications of living right next to one of the worst fires in the nation. People know that breathing in a lot of smoke is not good for you, but how much should you worry about your pets?

Wildland fire smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic materials burn. The biggest health threat from smoke is from those fine particles. These microscopic particles can penetrate deep into your lungs. They can cause a range of health problems, from burning eyes and a runny nose to aggravated chronic heart and lung disease.

Animal owners should be aware that wildfire smoke advisories, issued by county districts for people, apply to animals, too.

Generally, the worse the visibility, the worse the smoke. Visibility can help you gauge wildfire smoke levels.

If you are experiencing stinging or burning in your eyes or throat, or notice a heavy smoke smell in the air, your dog or cat is experiencing symptoms as well. Keep your furry friends inside as much as possible. Try exercising your active dog on a treadmill or play catch indoors instead of walking him around outside. In the house, keep your windows closed and use your air conditioner instead.

"Advisories meant to caution people to avoid heavy work outdoors and to remain indoors as much as possible, also should be applied to your pets," explained Dr. Robert Dyke, a member of the veterinary faculty in the community at Washington State University's (WSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Pet parents who really need to walk or exercise

pets outdoors should look for times of the day when the smoke settles as much as possible.

According to Dyke, birds need to remain indoors as much as possible during the highest level of poor air quality advisories because pet birds are extremely susceptible to respiratory problems from smoke particles in the air.

Smoke is known for affecting respiratory conditions that affect the lungs, such as feline asthma. Smoke can trigger asthma attacks in humans and animals. So, if your cat has a history of this condition, you should keep an eye on her for any signs.

For animals that cannot be sheltered indoors such as horses or livestock, smoke can also increase respiratory distress if they have been diagnosed with lung or heart disease.

So, just like humans with lung conditions, smoke in the air represents an increased hazard for animals.

High concentrations of smoke particles can also alter the immune system and reduce the ability of the lungs to remove foreign materials, such as pollen and bacteria, to which horses are normally exposed.

Protecting horses from air pollution: Limit their exercise when smoke is visible. Don't have your horse do activities that increase the airflow in and out of the lungs; this can trigger bronchoconstriction (narrowing of the small airways in the lungs). Provide plenty of fresh water close to where your horse eats. Horses drink most of their water within two hours of eating hay, so having water close to the feeder increases water consumption. Water keeps the airways moist and facilitates clearance of inhaled particulate matter.

HEPA filters are effective at filtering smoke and dust particles and can really improve air quality in your home.

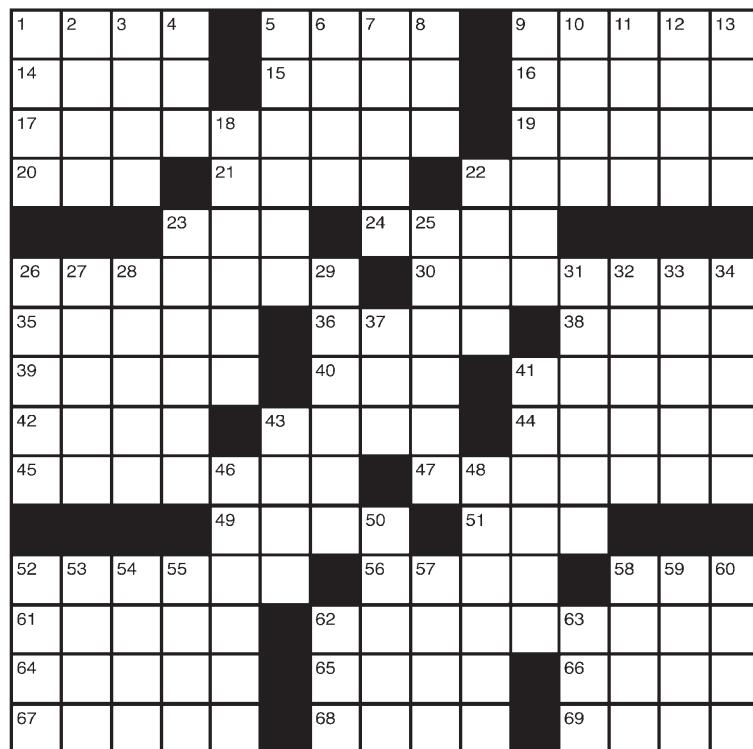
Other than increased risk of complications from existing health conditions, the smoke from Sisters' Milli Fire is unlikely to have long-term health repercussions for your pet. But if you have a pet with a lung or heart condition, avoid strenuous exercise until the air clears up.

Seek medical advice from your veterinarian if you see any signs of respiratory distress such as coughing or increased breathing effort.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rugged cliff
 - 5 Take a ___ at; attempt
 - 9 Dwelling
 - 14 "The Yellow ___ of Texas"
 - 15 Beautician's need
 - 16 Slanted edge
 - 17 Indifferent
 - 19 New York or porterhouse
 - 20 Jerry Stiller's son
 - 21 Small bills
 - 22 Two-by-fours
 - 23 Fire ___; stinging insect
 - 24 Scorch
 - 26 Get sidetracked when speaking
 - 30 Worker
 - 35 Second U.S. president
 - 36 ___ up; tallies
 - 38 Commanded
 - 39 Send payment
 - 40 Enemy
 - 41 Fishing spots
 - 42 No longer wild
 - 43 Listen
 - 44 Lawful
 - 45 Makes long cuts
 - 47 Stores away
 - 49 Martial ___; karate, judo, etc.
 - 51 Part of a play
 - 52 Detests
 - 56 ___-blue; loyal
 - 58 Winning card player's cry
 - 61 Steam bath
 - 62 Pharmacy
 - 64 Murders
 - 65 Sworn promise
 - 66 As strong as ___
 - 67 Remains
 - 68 Abnormal sac
 - 69 ___-up; tired of confinement
- DOWN**
- 1 Cranky person
 - 2 Lasso, for one
 - 3 As wise ___ owl
 - 4 Acquire
 - 5 Perfumes
 - 6 Carry
 - 7 Haywire
 - 8 UK network
 - 9 Soak up
 - 10 Alpha's follower
 - 11 Win ___; persuade
 - 12 Lifeless
 - 13 Forest animals
 - 18 Straightforward
 - 22 Sheep cries
 - 23 Military forces
 - 25 Parents and grandparents
 - 26 Moves quickly
 - 27 Perfect
 - 28 Sorority letter
 - 29 Least risky
 - 31 Woodwind player
 - 32 Dressing type
 - 33 Albert or Murphy
 - 34 Takes a nap
 - 37 ___ one-eighty; change one's view radically



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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- 41 Locations
- 43 His and ___
- 46 Keep annoying
- 48 Instructed
- 50 Alley cat, e.g.
- 52 Poses a query
- 53 Fishing worm, for example
- 54 Luau dance
- 55 ___ child; kid with no siblings
- 57 Grooves
- 58 No longer here
- 59 Common metal
- 60 Teller's call
- 62 ___ Severinsen
- 63 On ___; ready to be poured

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