

# Paw Printz

## HEALTHIER PETS - NATURALLY

FEBRUARY 2012



Market  
Calendar

Sat 4th - Kingston FM  
Sun 5th - Lardner Park CM  
Sat 11th - Caulfield FM  
Sun 12th - Mornington CM  
Sat 18th - East Hawthorn FM  
Sun 19th - Seaford FM  
Sat 25th - Berwick twilight  
Sun 26th - Mt Eliza FM

*Please check website for full details*

[www.pawprintz.com.au](http://www.pawprintz.com.au)

*Mozart*



### Dogs & Bush Fire

Fire is a phenomenon found in most ecosystems within Australia. Those living in rural areas or on the urban fringe of cities are most likely to experience bushfires, although travellers, holiday-makers, or those just passing through these areas can be exposed to the dangers as well.

Bushfires are more likely to occur when fuel loads are high, and weather conditions - such as high temperatures, high winds and low humidity, can support a fire. The higher the intensity of the fire, the harder that fire is to control, and the greater damage it is likely to cause.

Direct flame contact is rarely the cause of an animal's death. They die because they are not satisfactorily protected from the heat and smoke the fire emits. Radiant Heat causes the body's cooling system to fail, resulting in heat stroke, dehydration, asphyxiation and thus death. Putting distance between radiant heat and the animal is obviously the best refuge from the threat.

The safest time to evacuate is BEFORE a fire starts - do it early, and prepare to take your pets with you. Organise dog collars and leads, beds, additional food, etc, before summer hits. Is there a woollen blanket in the car? Consider taking your dog/dogs to the beach or visiting relatives in town on Total Fire Ban days.

But you have to go to work and your dog is left at home. Then ensure your dog has suitable shade and water. Make arrangements with friends or neighbours who have access to your property to care for your dog if a fire does break out. Make sure your dog has satisfactory identification tags incase he/she is lost during a fire. *Remember, during a fire, you may not be allowed back into the area to rescue your pet.*

If you are caught on the road in your car during a fire - **do not get either yourself or your dog out of the car.** If you have the option, turn around and drive away from the fire. If not - pull to the side of the road into a cleared area. Try not



to park your car close to long dry grass or scrub. Put your hazard lights and headlights on, and keep the engine running. Ensure all windows are up and vents are closed. Get yourself and your dog down as low as possible below window level. Cover yourself and your dog as much as possible with clothing (not synthetic), woollen blankets, or wet towels if available until the fire front passes. When you feel a reduction in heat, it is safe to get out and move.

If choose to stay with your home during a fire. Ensure you have the necessary means to adequately restrain or confine your dog – as they may well be frightened and could panic. Dogs need to be sheltered from the fire, preferably with you. Radiant heat cannot penetrate through a solid object; their best protection is to stay inside. Shut all doors and windows. Keep the dog cool and make sure there is plenty of water. A bath can be used – fill to around 10-15cm with water, a hot dog will happily lie in the water to keep cool. Ice cubes put in water dishes are also useful. Remember that temperatures on total fire ban days are often soaring above 40 degrees Celsius.

Suggested 'Evacuation' Bag:

- Collars & Leads,
- Food & Water Bowls,
- Small Amount of Dry Food,
- Medication – if required.

An Information List - your name, address and phone numbers, including the numbers of a friend or relative who is not in a threatened area. Your dog's name, medical information and food requirements. Your Vets 24hr phone number.

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### FEATURED PRODUCT

#### Meaty Chips



Chicken or Kangaroo  
- an excellent source of high quality protein, which is essential for growth and development while being low in calories.

100% Australian meat minced, dried and sliced into small round portions.

*for more info refer to website*

[www.pawprintz.com.au](http://www.pawprintz.com.au)



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