



"If you love them... leave them at home!"

Protect Your Pet against the Dangers of Hot Cars

The short stop you plan to make at the store could stretch to 15 minutes or more before you know it. Your mistake could cost your dog its life. Leaving the window cracked won't cool the car enough to protect your pet.

The inside of a car can heat up to 110° F (43° C) in 10 minutes on an 80° F (27° C) day - even with the windows slightly open. Your pet will suffer needlessly and could die when left in your car even on a moderately hot day. Your pet would be safer at home.

Heat Stress Symptoms:

Danger signals to watch for in a dog or cat:

1. heavy panting
2. rapid breathing
3. staggering
4. weakness

When breathing suddenly becomes quiet with any of these symptoms, the animal may collapse. An animal affected by heat-stroke can die in minutes, but proper care may save its life.

Treatment:

1. Safely and immediately remove the animal from its hot environment, to a safe shaded area if possible.
2. Slowly cool the animal by placing it in cool, not cold, water. Reduce body heat gradually.
3. If possible, the wind or a fan breeze directed to wet areas of the animal's body will help with cooling.
4. Take the distressed pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment for dehydration and other serious problems will be necessary.

Intervention:

If you see an animal locked in a car on a hot day:

1. Locate the owner as quickly as possible. If the car is parked at a store, ask a store employee to page the owner.
2. If the owner cannot be found quickly, call the police to free the animal from the car. Take first-aid measures noted above.