



Hot Car Dangers

Things Get Hotter Faster Than You Know

It seems common sense to animal lovers – never leave your dog in a hot car. What is surprising to many is the discovery of just how hot – and deadly a vehicle can become on a day that feels merely warm to most of us.

A study performed by Stanford University found that even on a mild 72-degree day, a car's internal temperature rockets to 116 degrees within one hour. In fact, vehicular temperatures have been recorded as high as 159 degrees. It's enough to kill or seriously injure any pet (or person) left in the vehicle.

Even cracking the windows will not make a significant difference to the extreme temperatures inside. Dogs mainly rely on panting to cool down their bodies – a method that is not nearly as effective as sweating. Breeds with heavy coats and/or flat faces may succumb to heat faster, as will older dogs or those with medical conditions.

Heatstroke Warnings

If you think your pet is suffering from heatstroke, act immediately. Bring them into the shade or a cooler climate, and cool them by submerging them in or placing rags soaked in lukewarm (NOT cold or ice cold) water on their body, focusing on their head and paw pads. Call or get them to a veterinarian ASAP. Signs of heatstroke include:

- Excessive panting or difficulty breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Weakness
- Drooling or foaming at the mouth
- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Bloody diarrhea
- Stupor or collapse

If You See a Pet Trapped in a Hot Vehicle

Try to find the vehicle's owner. Alert the management of the business near where the vehicle is parked. If the owner does not return quickly, call animal control or the police department immediately. Not only is it illegal for pet guardians to leave their animals in an enclosed vehicle under dangerous

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conditions, but law enforcement or animal control officers have the authority to break into a vehicle if they cannot locate an animals' guardian after making a reasonable attempt to do so.

People often think they'll "be back in a minute," but it's difficult to anticipate running into an old friend, being stuck in a line, or simply getting lost in the aisles. This summer, be kind to your four-legged friends and drop them off at home before running errands.

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