



Dogs in Hot Cars

It takes only minutes for a pet left in a car on a warm day to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation. On a 78 degree day, the temperature inside a car parked in the shade can exceed 90 degrees – and hit a scorching 160 if the car is parked in the sun! Even when it's in the 60's outside, temperatures inside some cars can reach dangerous levels on bright, sunny days.

Rolling down a window or parking in the shade is no protection for your pet. Temperatures can still climb dangerously high.

Animals are not able to sweat like humans. Dogs cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paws. If they have only overheated air to breathe, animals can collapse, suffer brain damage and possibly die of heatstroke. Just 15 minutes can be enough for an animal's body temperature to climb from normal (102.5) to deadly levels.

Leave your dog at home in a cool area on warm days.

What to do:

If you happen to notice an animal in a vehicle that appears to be in immediate danger, you should dial 911.

The agency responsible for enforcing laws to protect dogs in hot cars is the local animal control. Officers have the right to remove an animal in immediate danger. For some localities, especially more rural areas or small cities, the police or sheriff's department take care of animal control services. To find the animal control agency servicing your area, see the handout "Animal Control Services" on the "Resources" page of our website, homewardpet.org.