



Don't leave your pet in a parked car

Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car for any period of time.

ON A WARM DAY, the temperature in a car can exceed 120° in a matter of minutes—even with the windows partially open. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

IF YOUR PET IS EXPOSED TO HIGH TEMPERATURES:

- **Look for signs of heat stress**—heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting or a deep red or purple tongue.
- **If your pet is overheated, move him to a cooler area and take these emergency steps:**
 1. Gradually lower his body temperature by sprinkling cool water on him. Do not soak him in cool or cold water because his temperature could drop too low.
 2. Place cool, wet towels over the back of the neck, in the armpits, and in the groin area. You may also wet the ear flaps and paws with cool water. Direct a fan on the wet areas to speed evaporative cooling.
 3. You may offer fresh, cool water if your dog is alert and wants to drink. Do not force your pet to drink.
- **Take your pet immediately to a veterinarian**—it could save his life. Call ahead, if possible, to be sure your veterinarian is available.
- **If you see an animal in a car exhibiting signs of heat stress,** call your local animal care and control agency or police department immediately and take the following steps:
 1. Get the vehicle's tag number and enter the nearest store or business to request an emergency announcement be made about a pet left in a hot car.
 2. Go back and wait for police at the vehicle.

In several states Good Samaritans can legally remove animals from cars under certain circumstances, so be sure to know the laws in your area and follow any steps required.

HEAT STRESS IS NOT THE ONLY DANGER YOUR PET FACES

when left alone in a car. Many pets are stolen each year from unattended cars.

Many pets prefer to stay home, but if you must take your pet with you in your car, do so safely: Cats should ride in pet carriers, and dogs should ride in travel crates or wear a safety harness. When a pet travels, he should wear two ID tags—one with a home address and one with a destination address.

**For more information about pet care,
visit [humanesociety.org/pets](https://www.humanesociety.org/pets).**



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450 Washington, DC 20037
[humanesociety.org](https://www.humanesociety.org)