

## **Can I leave my dog in the car for just a minute?**

**Imagine being trapped in a sweltering vehicle with no escape, as the temperature quickly soars to life-threatening levels. That's the reality for dogs left in hot cars, even for just a few minutes. On a mild 70°F day, the interior of a car can reach a staggering 104°F within half an hour.**

**Every year, dogs suffer and die when their guardians make the mistake of leaving them in a parked car—even for “just a minute”—while they run an errand. Parked cars are death traps for dogs: On a 90-degree day, the interior temperature can reach as high as 109 degrees in just 10 minutes.**

**Animals can sustain brain damage or even die from heatstroke in just 15 minutes. Beating the heat is extra tough for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting, but when the air around them is hotter than their body temperature, this mechanism becomes ineffective. Heatstroke can set in rapidly, leading to severe organ damage, and in the worst cases, death. Dehydration is another serious concern, as dogs can lose crucial body fluids through excessive panting.**

## **Know the Signs of Heatstroke in Dogs**

**As a responsible pet owner, it's vital to recognize the symptoms of heatstroke in dogs:**

- **Heavy panting and difficulty breathing**
- **Excessive drooling**
- **Bright red or pale gums**
- **Vomiting and diarrhea**
- **Dizziness or disorientation**
- **Collapse or loss of consciousness**

**If you suspect your dog is suffering from heatstroke, immediately move them to a cool area, provide fresh water, and contact your veterinarian or emergency pet hospital for guidance.**

## **Know When to Leave Your Dog at Home**

**Sometimes, the kindest choice is to leave your dog in the comfort of your home while you tackle summer tasks. Ensure they have a cool, shaded area to relax in, along with plenty of fresh water. If you're gone for an extended period, consider enlisting a trusted pet sitter or boarding your dog at a reputable facility.**

## **What should I do if I see a dog in a hot car?**

**If you encounter a dog left in a hot vehicle, alert nearby businesses and ask them to locate the owner. Call local animal control or the police for assistance. If the situation is dire and the authorities are delayed, Arizona, good Samaritan law allows you to break into the vehicle to rescue the pet after exhausting all other options. However, only do so as a last resort and with extreme caution.**

## **Don't forget about hot paws**

**When walking your dog, keep in mind that if it feels hot enough to fry a pepper outside, it probably is. When the air temperature is 86 degrees, the asphalt can reach a sizzling 135 degrees — more than hot enough to cook an egg in five minutes. And it can do the same with our canine companions' sensitive footpads.**

**On an 87-degree day, asphalt temperatures can reach 140 degrees, hot enough to cause burns, permanent damage and scarring after just one minute of contact. Hot sidewalks, pavement and parking lots can not only burn paws, they also reflect heat onto dogs' bodies, increasing their risk of deadly heatstroke.**