

Pets Left in Hot Cars:

Every year, hundreds of pets suffer from heat exhaustion or die because they are left in parked vehicles. We've all heard excuses like, "I'll only be a few minutes" or "I cracked the windows." Unfortunately, those few minutes can be fatal for your pet.

Why Dogs Are Extra Vulnerable to Heat in Cars:

Unlike humans, dogs can't cool down as efficiently. While people sweat across their whole body to release heat, dogs only have a few cooling sweat glands located in their paw pads. Dogs rely mainly on panting and expanding their blood vessels (vasodilation) to try to cool down.

Unfortunately, panting and vasodilation aren't as effective as sweating, which makes dogs far more prone to heat-related illnesses like heatstroke, especially in a hot, enclosed car—even on days that don't seem that warm to you. Cracking the windows doesn't help, and the temperature inside a car can rise dangerously fast, putting pets at serious risk.

Heat Danger Facts:

- **In just 10 minutes**, the temperature inside your car can rise almost **20°F**.
- **In 20 minutes**, your car's internal temperature can rise **30°F** or more.
- After **one hour**, your car's internal temperature can be over **40°F** higher than outside.
- On a **70°F day**, your car can reach a deadly **110°F** in less than an hour.
- **Cracking Windows Has Very Little Effect on Cooling Your Car's Temperature.**

Estimated Vehicle Temperature Rise:

Elapsed Time 70°F Outside 75°F Outside 80°F Outside 85°F Outside 90°F Outside 95°F Outside

0 minutes	70°F	75°F	80°F	85°F	90°F	95°F
10 minutes	89°F	94°F	99°F	104°F	109°F	114°F
20 minutes	99°F	104°F	109°F	114°F	119°F	124°F
30 minutes	104°F	109°F	114°F	119°F	124°F	129°F
40 minutes	108°F	113°F	118°F	123°F	128°F	133°F
50 minutes	111°F	116°F	121°F	126°F	131°F	136°F
60 minutes	113°F	118°F	123°F	128°F	133°F	138°F
> 1 hour	115°F	120°F	125°F	130°F	135°F	140°F

Source: Jan Null, Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

Signs of Heatstroke in Pets:

- Excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart rate, drooling, weakness, collapse, seizure, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea.

Know the Law: (New Hampshire RSA 644:8-aa - Animals in Motor Vehicles)

"I. It shall be cruelty to confine an animal in a motor vehicle or other enclosed space in which the temperature is so high or low as to cause serious harm to the animal. 'Animal' means a domestic animal, household pet, or wild animal held in captivity.

II. Any person in violation of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor as set forth in RSA 644:8.

III. Any law enforcement officer or agent of a licensed humane organization may take action necessary to rescue a confined animal endangered by extreme temperatures and remove the threat of further harm.

IV. No officer or agent taking action under paragraph III shall be liable for damage reasonably necessary to rescue the confined animal."

