




## DON'T LEAVE Your Pet in a Parked Car

**N**ever 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°F in a matter of minutes—even with the windows partially open. Your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation. If your pet is exposed to high temperatures, here is what you should do:

- 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.
- Lower your pet's body temperature immediately by taking the following steps:
  1. Move your pet into the shade and pour cool (not cold) water all over your pet's body to gradually lower his or her body temperature. 



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2. Apply ice packs or cold towels to your pet's head, neck, and chest only.
3. Let your pet lick ice cubes or even ice cream, but limit access to cold water.

Finally, take your pet immediately to a veterinarian—it could save your pet's 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!

You don't expose your pet to just the dangers of heat stress when you leave him or her in a car; you also expose the pet to theft. Many pets are stolen each year from unattended cars.

Taking your pet for a ride may seem like fun, but many pets prefer to spend time with you in the comfort and safety of home. Explore activities that you and your pet can share at home and avoid taking risks by leaving your pet in the car.

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 or she should wear two ID tags—one with a home address and one with a destination address.

For more information about responsible pet care, contact  
**The Humane Society of the United States**  
2100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
202-452-1100

[humanesociety.org/pets](http://humanesociety.org/pets)



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