



Dogs Die In Hot Cars

Never leave your dog alone in a car on a warm day.

Even on a cool day outside, if it is sunny, temperatures inside a car can rise significantly higher in a very short space of time. This can easily kill a dog.

Many people still believe that it's ok to leave a dog in a car on a warm day if the windows are left open or they're parked in the shade, but the truth is, it's still a very dangerous situation for the dog. A car can become as hot as an oven very quickly, even when it doesn't feel that warm. When it's 22 degrees, in a car it can reach an unbearable 47 degrees within the hour.

The following tables show just how quickly temperatures can rise on a warm day.

Elapsed Time in Minutes	Outside Air Temperature in Centigrade (C)					
	21	23	26	29	32	35
0	21	23	26	29	32	35
10	31	34	37	40	42	45
20	37	40	42	45	48	51
30	40	42	45	48	51	53
40	42	45	47	50	53	56
50	43	46	49	52	55	57
60	45	47	50	53	56	58
>1 hour	46	48	51	54	57	60

Elapsed Time in Minutes	Outside Air Temperature in Fahrenheit (F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138
>1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

If you see a dog in distress in a hot car, dial 999, and ask the police to attend.

How to help a dog in a hot car

Establish the animal's health/condition. If they're displaying any signs of heatstroke (see below) dial 999 immediately.

If the situation becomes critical for the dog and the police are too far away/unable to attend, many people's instinct will be to break into the car to free the dog. If you decide to do this, please be aware that without proper justification, this could be classed as criminal damage and, potentially, you may need to defend your actions in court.

Make sure you tell the police what you intend to do, why, and take images/footage of the dog and the names and numbers of witnesses to the incident. The law states that you have a lawful excuse to commit damage if you believe that the owner of the property that you damage would consent to the damage if they knew the circumstances (section 5(2)(a) Criminal Damage Act 1971).

Once removed, if the dog is displaying signs of heatstroke, follow the emergency first aid advice below. This could mean the difference between life and death for the dog.

If the dog is not displaying symptoms of heatstroke: -

- Establish how long the dog has been in the car? A 'pay and display' ticket could help.
- Make a note of the car's registration. If the owner returns, but you still feel the situation was dangerous for the dog, you may still report the incident to the police.
- If you're at a superstore/venue/event ask the staff to make an announcement to alert the owner of the situation.
- If possible, get someone to stay with the dog to monitor their condition. If they begin to display signs of distress/heatstroke, be prepared to dial 999.

Heatstroke

If you see a dog in a hot car displaying any signs of heatstroke, dial 999 immediately as the dog could soon lose consciousness and experience internal organ failure.

Warning signs of heatstroke

- Is the dog panting heavily?
- Is the dog drooling excessively?
- Does the dog appear lethargic, drowsy or uncoordinated?
- Is the dog collapsed or vomiting?

What is 'heatstroke'?

If dogs are too hot and are unable to reduce their body temperature by panting, they will develop heatstroke which can kill.

If a dog is displaying any signs of heatstroke, move them to a cool, shaded area and call a vet immediately.

Some types of dog are more prone to heatstroke, like very old or young dogs, dogs with thick, heavy coats or dogs with very short flat faces like pugs and bulldog types. Dogs with certain diseases or on some types of medication are also more at risk.

Emergency First Aid for Dogs with Heatstroke

For the best chance of survival, dogs suffering from heatstroke urgently need to have their body temperature lowered gradually.

- Move him/her to a shaded/cool area.
- Immediately douse the dog with cool (not cold) water, to avoid shock. If possible, you can also use wet towels or place him/her in the breeze of a fan.
- Allow the dog to drink small amounts of cool water.
- Continue to douse the dog with cool water until his/her breathing starts to settle but never so much that he/she begins to shiver.

Once the dog is cool, take him/her to the nearest vet as a matter of urgency.

Do not put the dog back inside a hot car. Make sure the car is cool.