

# Too **Hot** for Spot!



## When the mercury rises, leave Spot at home.

Imagine that you're trapped inside a parked car. The windows are only open a crack. The temperature is rising. Now, imagine that you're also wearing a fur coat.

Did you know that a dog left in a car on a warm day can collapse from heatstroke in just *minutes*? Most people love their dogs and many want to take them along wherever they go. But when the mercury rises, it's safer to leave Rover at home.

On a 78F day, a car parked in the sun can reach 1600F in *minutes*. Even opening windows or parking in the shade won't prevent a dog from getting overheated. The heat is especially hard on dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paws. With only hot air to breathe, dogs and other animals can suffer irreversible brain damage and even die of heatstroke.

### PROTECT YOUR DOG BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS:

- Don't take a chance—leave your dog at home on warm days. Even just a quick trip to the store can be deadly.
- Don't carry a dog unrestrained in a pickup truck bed. Besides being extremely dangerous because many dogs jump or fall out of trucks, the hot metal can burn dogs' feet.
- Learn to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion—restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, rapid pulse, fever, vomiting, glazed eyes, dizziness, and lack of coordination.
- If your dog shows any of these symptoms, get him or her to a shady or air-conditioned place right away.
- Lower body temperature gradually by providing water to drink, applying a cold towel or an ice pack to the head, neck, and chest, or immersing the dog in cool (not cold) water.
- Call your veterinarian immediately.
- If you see a dog in a car and in distress, take down the car's color, model, make, and license-plate number, have the owner paged inside nearby stores, and call local humane authorities or police. Have someone keep an eye on the dog. If police are unresponsive or too slow and the dog's life appears to be in imminent danger, find a witness (or several) who will back your assessment, then take steps to remove the suffering animal and wait for authorities to arrive.



*Bringing Families Together... ...One Rescue at a Time*

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