

## PETS DIE IN HOT CARS & UTES!

### Cars & Utes: Metal Greenhouses!

Imagine a metal box with glass in the midday sun. Metal conducts heat to the inside, glass transmits heat directly inside. The metal rear tray is hotter than the pavement. There's no air exchange, lots of bulky surfaces and often dark coloured interior fittings to trap and hold heat. Clearly, hot cars and utes are dangerous!

DO NOT EVER LEAVE A PET IN A CAR UNATTENDED! TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU!

### How Much Heat Does It Take To Hurt A Pet?

Pet skin can burn at as little as 44C. Many pets can suffer heat stress at only 35C, and lower if the pet has a short nose (brachycephalic), is unable to move around (eg in a carrier crate or basket), has a double coat (eg Malamute) or is young. Because of thick coats/feathers and no sweat glands, pets don't deal with heat well, and they tend to hide symptoms of distress. Footpads can get third degree burns on hot ute trays.

### How Hot Does It Get In The Car?

The general rule is that in-car temperature is up to 40C higher than outside— so on a relatively mild 30C day, internal car temperature can be up to 70C! Research shows temperatures of up to 88.9C on the dashboard and steering wheel of a closed vehicle! Light coloured cars are only about 5C cooler than dark, on the inside.

Three other things that make this heat effect worse:

1. 75% of this temperature rise occurs in the first 5 minutes, with 90% in 15 mins
2. Humidity rises with temperature, making the heat harder to bear
3. Hot plastic emits a variety of chemicals, some of which can cause health effects



### Does Opening The Windows "A Crack" Help?

While hot air rises, it needs to be replaced by cool air below to have any cooling effect. While internal car temperature might come down a little, it won't save a pet on a hot day.

### Signs Of Heat Stroke

Pets can get clinical heat stroke as soon as 7 minutes after you close the doors. They pant until the energy involved in panting is greater than the heat being lost – then a vicious cycle develops. Symptoms include brick-red gums, desperate panting, drooling and sometimes hyper-activity. As the situation gets worse, the animal collapses and dies rapidly as internal organs including brain literally melt with the heat.



Heat Stroke is a medical emergency. Drench the pet IMMEDIATELY with cold water for 5-10 minutes. Don't pour water on the nose. Offer a drink of cold water, but don't force them. Put a fan on, if possible. If the pet is not visibly improving after 5 minutes ship to the nearest veterinarian – soaking wet, with the air conditioner/ fan on 'full'. DO NOT wrap the pet in towels/blankets (wet or dry) as this traps heat.

Thanks to Oakley Originals for the photo!

### DO THIS if you see a Pet Alone in A Hot Car

Call NRMA/RACV/RACQ/RACWA /etc; play a cold water hose on the car, call local police or mall management. Remember if you rescue the pet by breaking the car window you may be held liable for the damage.

### Do This If Your Pet Is In The Car And You Need To Go Somewhere Without The Pet

Take the pet OUT of the car. Tether the pet or the carrier cage, with water, under a shady tree, or under a veranda or other shade. Even on the hottest days it's cooler than the car...

### References:

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