



Parked cars are deathtraps for children & pets.



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Cars get hot faster than you think

In 2013, 44 children died from vehicle-related hyperthermia. Pet deaths aren't tracked but estimates are in the thousands per year. It's a terrible way to die.

If you must leave your parked car any time of year, take children with you and leave pets at home. Period.

It doesn't matter if you've run the AC or heater, park in the shade or sun, leave windows open, or it's cloudy.

Studies show that 75% of heat gain in motor vehicles occurs within 5 minutes of closing doors and maximizes within 15-30 minutes.

Even at an ambient 72°F, the temperature inside a car can rapidly reach 116°F.

When in the 80°F range, *surfaces* can easily be above 150°F with an interior temperature of 99°F.

When it's 90°F outside, the *interior* temperature can climb to 160°F in less than 10 minutes.

Don't think running into the store for "a minute" won't matter. Hyperthermia (overheating) maims and kills.

It's illegal to be cruel

You probably know what happens to people who injure or kill children by leaving them in hot cars.

In Washington State, you may be found **guilty of animal cruelty in the first or second degree** if you have knowingly, recklessly, or through criminal negligence caused an animal to suffer dehydration or unjustifiable pain. RCW 16.52.205 & 207.

All states have animal cruelty laws.

Symptoms of heat stress

- Heavy, excessive, or rapid shallow panting.
- Thick saliva or excessive drool.
- Glazed eyes.
- Rapid pulse. (SEE MORE OVER)

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- Poor coordination or staggering gait.
- Disorientation.
- Vomiting or diarrhea.
- Deep red or purple tongue and/or gums.
- Seizure.
- Problems breathing or respiratory arrest.

If breathing suddenly becomes quiet in the presence of any of these symptoms, the animal may collapse.

When overheated, pets can go into shock, suffer brain and/or nerve damage or have irreversible organ failure causing death.

An animal suffering from heat stroke can die in minutes. Prompt and proper treatment might save its life.

Treatment

- **Immediately, safely remove** animal from hot environment to a safe, shaded area.
- **Gradually lower** animal's temperature safely with **room temperature** water. Place animal in water. Cover it with a wet towel. Use a fan to create a breeze over the animal. Wipe its nose, head, snout, neck, groin, and under front legs.
- **Offer small amounts** of water to a *conscious* animal.
- **Immediately take** the animal to a veterinarian. Call ahead so they're ready. Minutes literally mean life or death. By the time symptoms show, it's often too late.

Intervening to help a pet or child

If you find an animal or child in a hot car, assume a medical emergency. Do the following:

1. Stay calm.
2. Note the vehicle's location, color, brand, model, and tag number.
3. Locate the owner by asking nearby venues/stores to page the owner advising that police are being called.
4. Call police while asking for help from venue personnel. Give police the car's ID information. Try to be at the car to help them find it when they arrive. Follow their instructions.

Learn more. Talk to others. Be vigilant.

Resources used but not limited to: Aap.org, KidsAndCars.org, Aspc.org, Mspca.org, HumaneSociety.org, RedRover.org, MyDogIsCool.com, Peta.org, other child and animal welfare organizations, news media, NGOs, and government agencies.

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