

# Pledge Not to Leave Your Dogs in Hot Cars this Summer



At this time of year, safety professionals in many workplaces naturally focus on protecting workers from heat stress. But humans aren't the only ones vulnerable to the heat and humidity—pets are vulnerable, too.

This summer, take the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals #nohotpets pledge to not leave your pet in a vehicle. You can also help spread the word by tweeting with the #nohotpets hashtag.

If you drive somewhere with your pet (often a dog), make sure to take your pet with you when you leave your vehicle. If pets aren't allowed where you're going, leave them at home where they'll be safe, cool and comfortable.

According to the OSPCA, on a hot day, the temperature inside your vehicle will quickly become much hotter than the temperature outside. When a dog is left unattended in a hot vehicle, it's not just uncomfortable—it's life-threatening.

Dogs have very limited ability to sweat. So even a short period in a hot environment can cause suffering and distress, and could result in brain damage or death.

If you suspect your dog or someone else's has heat stroke (look for excessive panting and drooling, listlessness or unconsciousness), it's vital to get prompt veterinary medical attention. In the meantime, wet the dog's fur immediately with lukewarm to cool water, not cold water. Bring the pet into the shade and offer it drinking water.

More dog-related articles:

- Dogs in the Workplace Help Reduce Stress, Says Study
- Is Take Your Dog to Work Day a Good Idea?
- It's Not a Click—Dogs Really Do Bite Postal Workers.