

When Sun is bad...

Pets in cars



We all love bringing our pets along for car rides, however this can become a very dangerous situation very quickly. It is easy to think “I am just going to run into the store quick” or “The window is cracked open, they should be ok” but these thoughts can lead to devastating results.

Even if the outside temperature is a comfortable 70 degrees, the temperature inside a car can be as much as 20 degrees hotter. When the temperature is in the 90’s outside the temperature inside the car can be as high as 140 degrees. The temperature inside the car can rise by 20 degrees in as little as 10 minutes. [This video is a good demonstration of how fast the temperature rises inside a car.](#) Leaving the windows cracked open does not allow for enough air circulation to help ventilate and cool a car and if there is little to no wind the amount of air circulation will decrease further. Parking your car in the shade will not help reduce the interior temperature of the car because the shade is just cutting the sun exposure and the shade is going to change as the sun moves.

If you come across a pet in a car that appears to be in distress contact the local authorities and stay by the car until they arrive. If the animal seems to get worse before the authorities arrive, ensure that there are other people around that can verify that the pet was in distress prior to taking any additional action.

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time

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

Courtesy Jan Null, CCM; Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

In extreme temperatures it is best to leave your pets at home where they will be happily waiting to greet you when you get back. If you have any questions about pets being left in hot cars please feel free to call Cedar Grove Veterinary Services at (920) 668-6212 or email us at info@cgvet.com.

