

Your pet could **die**  
or **suffer serious**  
**injury** in a matter of  
minutes if left alone  
in a car!

The RSPCA receives countless  
distress calls each year concerning  
animals left alone in cars.

On a typical Queensland summer's  
day, the temperature inside a  
vehicle can reach up to 75°C.

Even Queensland's winter  
temperatures are high enough that  
a dog left alone in a car for a short  
period of time is at high risk of  
death or injury.

**Never** leave your pet  
in a car not even in the  
shade...not even with the  
windows down...not even  
for a few minutes

**NEVER**

## IN AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL

RSPCA Animal Emergency Hotline  
**1300 ANIMAL**  
(1300 264625)

Police  
**131 444**  
or **000** for emergencies only

DPI Call Centre  
**13 25 23**

In a car park? Please notify Centre  
Management immediately.

Act without delay and  
**you could save the**  
**life of an animal.**

**RSPCA**<sup>®</sup>  
Queensland

Locked Bag 3000  
Archerfield BH QLD 4108  
P 07 3426 9999  
W [rspcaqld.org.au](http://rspcaqld.org.au)  
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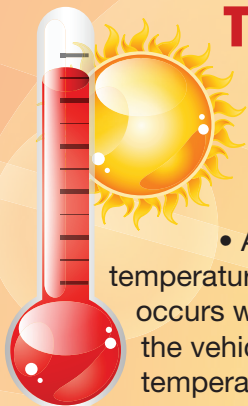
HELPING ANIMALS • ENLIGHTENING PEOPLE • CHANGING LIVES



**RSPCA**<sup>®</sup>  
Queensland

**DOGS DIE  
IN HOT  
CARS**

**IT MAKES OUR  
BLOOD BOIL TOO**



## THE FACTS

- The temperature inside a closed vehicle left in the sun can double within 12 minutes.
- At least 75% of the temperature increase in a closed vehicle occurs within 5 minutes of closing the vehicle and at least 89% of the temperature increase occurs within 15 minutes of closing the vehicle.
- Temperatures exceeding 40°C can lead to death or serious injury for the occupants.
- Vehicle temperatures can reach 75°C and above. An animal will suffer immeasurably and may die before the temperature reaches 55°C.
- Even when parked in the shade, the vehicle temperatures can exceed 40°C.
- Leaving windows down more than 50mm on an unattended vehicle is illegal and will not prevent a car from reaching extreme temperatures.
- Animals left on the back of utes without shade and water can suffer death or injury. The surface of tray-back utilities can also get extremely hot and may cause injuries.

**Even if the animal is revived, they can die due to severe internal organ damage.**

## WARNING SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Increased respiration (panting)
- Redness of the gums and eyes
- Distressed, frantic behaviour
- Profuse salivation

## HOW TO TREAT HEAT STROKE

### Cool the animal's body down immediately.

This can be achieved by:

- Gently hosing down the animal.
- Ice bags between the back legs or on the jugular vein (on side of neck).
- Packing cool towels and ice packs in arm pits and stomach areas where there is little or no fur.
- Head cooling with cold water, cool sponge, wet towel.
- Massaging extremities to increase blood flow and allow better cooling.
- Covering the body with a wet towel in the path of a fan.

Although animals are generally not allowed in shopping centres due to health regulations, in an emergency take the initiative. A cool, air-conditioned shopping centre and toilets with access to water could help save an animal's life.

Until an animal has been sufficiently cooled down, placing it directly in a hot car for vet treatment may further risk the animal's life.

\*Each case is different and needs to be assessed accordingly.

**It is vital to get the animal to a veterinarian immediately following initial first aid treatment to reduce body temperature.**

- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Loss of consciousness
- Shock
- Convulsions
- Collapse



## IMPORTANT NOTES

- If you have to leave the animal for a short time, leave them secured in a safe area with access to shade and water and ideally with a responsible person.
- Dogs tied up unattended outside a car or building may be a risk to the public and may be exposing the animal to cruelty, theft and weather conditions. You may also be in breach of local council laws.
- While the car is moving, make sure the animal is receiving sufficient ventilation, (windows down safely or air-conditioning) and that they are adequately restrained with access to cool, clean drinking water.
- Place a mat on the surface of the ute for your dog to sit on and provide it with shade and water. Animals traveling on the back of utes must be secured.



**Leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle may result in an offence being committed under the Animal Care and Protection Act QLD 2001.**