

# Pets in Parked Cars

Leaving your pet in a parked car can be dangerous.

On a warm day, the temperature in a parked car can reach 160 degrees in a matter of minutes, even with partially opened windows. With only hot air to breathe, your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or even die from heatstroke. Dogs and cats dissipate heat through the act of panting, they do not sweat like people do and are unable to signal when they are over-heating.

## **Signs of heat stress:**

- Heavy panting
- Glazed eyes
- Rapid pulse
- Dizziness
- Vomiting
- Deep red or purple tongue

If your pet becomes overheated, you must lower his or her body temperature immediately! Get your pet in the shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over their body. Let your pet drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes or ice cream. Bring your pet to a veterinarian right away, it could save their life.

Pets can also suffer from hypothermia if left in a parked car on a cold winter day.

In general, if you can't take your pet with you when you get out of the car, they are safer at home!