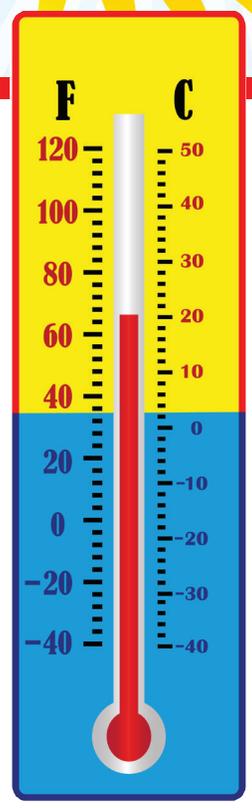




PARK YOUR PET AT HOME



For so many dogs, a ride in the car is one of their favorite things. A few cats enjoy it, too. It's hard to say no when they beg to go with you on an errand. But if there's a chance someone needs to leave a pet in their vehicle alone, it's best to park that pet at home.

Hot cars are extremely dangerous for pets in warm weather. Putting the windows down a bit or parking in a shady spot doesn't help. Temperatures can rise rapidly inside a vehicle—on a 90-degree day, for example, the interior can become 124 degrees in just a half-hour. Even on a day that's 70 degrees, the inside of a vehicle can be 90 degrees.



While being stuck in a car can be life-threatening for any pet on a warm day, it's especially risky for pets who are very young or old, or have health conditions, short muzzles, or thick fur coats. Owners can even be charged with the crime of animal cruelty, depending on the case, if they leave a pet in a car.

Pets who stay in hot cars can suffer from heatstroke, which can be deadly. If your pet may be experiencing heatstroke, call a veterinarian right away.



So leave your best furry friend at home when you head out this summer. Give them a special treat (like a toy with frozen peanut butter!), make sure they're nice and cool inside, and set up a nice spot for a nap. They'll be happy to greet you when you get home!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A DOG IN A CAR ON A HOT DAY:

Tell an adult.

Encourage them to report it to the business where the car is parked, or call animal control or the police.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE:

- Excessive panting
- Difficulty breathing
- Drooling
- Weakness
- Collapse
- Increased heart or breathing rate



CCSS.ELA-Literacy:
Informational Text
4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.5, 8.3, 9-10.1



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