

ANIMALS DIE IN HOT CARS

don't risk their life, don't leave them alone



The temperature inside a car can rapidly rise to **dangerous levels that can cause life-threatening heatstroke. Leaving an animal alone in a car can kill them.**

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

The inside of a vehicle can quickly climb to dangerous temperatures, even in average weather temperatures when the car is in the shade and the windows are down.

In fact, some of Australia's winter temperatures are high enough that an animal left alone in a car for a short period of time can be at risk.

These risks don't just apply to cars. The surface of tray-back utes can also get extremely hot, and animals left on the back of utes without shade and water are also at risk of heat-related injury or death.

Take animals with you if you leave the car, or leave them safely at home.

Heatstroke is a life-threatening emergency!

Signs of heatstroke can include:

- heavy panting
- difficulty breathing
- pale or red gums
- excessive drooling
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- weakness
- lethargy
- confusion
- lack of coordination
- seizures
- collapse

How to help an animal suffering from heatstroke:

If you suspect an animal is suffering from heatstroke, you need to act fast to reduce their body temperature and get help. It is vital that the animal is moved to a cool, shaded, well-ventilated environment and emergency first aid is given to cool them down. Apply room-temperature or cool water to their fur/skin, avoiding their head. Offer water if they are alert and able to drink. Seek veterinary attention immediately, and when transporting them to the vet, do this in a cool and well-ventilated vehicle.

Never leave an animal unattended in a car!

**not even in the shade... not even with the windows down...
not even when it feels cool... not even for a few minutes...**

Even on mild days, car interiors heat up quickly, putting animals at risk of suffering or death.

Leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle can quickly put them at risk of heatstroke. If an animal suffers as a result, this may constitute an offence under animal welfare laws.

IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL ALONE IN A CAR AND THEY ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE:

This is an emergency, and you should call the Police or RSPCA right away. If you're in a car park, you can also contact Centre Management for advice.

POLICE: 000
RSPCA ACT: 02 6287 8100
RSPCA NSW: 1300 278 3589
RSPCA NT: 1300 720 386
RSPCA QLD: 1300 264 625
RSPCA SA: 1300 477 722
RSPCA TAS: 1300 139 947
RSPCA VIC: 03 9224 2222
RSPCA WA: 1300 278 3589

Do not break the glass to rescue an animal. You can injure yourself or the animal, and the animal may escape in the process. **Instead, ask the Police for advice when you call them.**

Act without delay and you could save an animal's life.

RSPCA 