



Dogs + Hot Cars = Tragedy

HOW HOT DO CARS GET?

Never leave your pet in a parked car in warm or hot weather. Even cracked or tinted windows may not protect your pet from over-heating or suffering from heat stroke during hot summer days.

When its only 80 degrees outside, the inside of a car, even with windows cracked, can heat up to 102 degrees in 10 minutes and to more than 120 degrees a half an hour. That's because a car acts like a greenhouse, trapping the sun's heat. Several studies show that moderately warm temperatures outside, under the right circumstances, can quickly lead to a deadly temperatures inside a closed car. Dogs can only withstand a body temperature of 107 To 108 degrees for a very short period of time before suffering brain damage — or even death.

There is *No Place Like Home* for your pet. Please leave them at home with fresh water, a shaded place to lie and shelter from the elements on warm or hot days.

On trips with your pet where you do not leave them in a car, still please bring plenty of fresh drinking water and a bowl. Don't forget your leash for any necessary breaks.

It is a violation in Mesa County or the City of Grand Junction to leave your dog, unsupervised, outside public buildings including restaurants or stores. Another good reason to leave your pet at home unless you have no plans for stops where your dog is not welcome inside.

It can be a violation of local ordinances and/or state law to confine your dog in an environment (hot car) that causes or unreasonably permits the continuation of unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering. Cruelty further includes mistreatment or neglect and/or failure to provide proper food, drink or protection from the weather. Local fines for this violation vary but can be up to \$1,000.00.

If your pet shows signs of heat related distress, take the following steps:

Take the dog into the shade, an air conditioned area, or to the vet if you see signs of heat exhaustion, which include restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, dark tongue, rapid pulse, fever, vomiting, glazed eyes, dizziness, or lack of coordination. To lower body temperature gradually, give the animal water to drink, place a cold towel or ice pack on the head, neck and chest, and/or immerse the dog in cool (not cold) water. Call your veterinarian.

For more information about pet behavior or humane care of pets, please call 242-4646 or visit our web-site at www.mesacounty.us

Mesa County Animal Services