

Dogs and hot cars don't mix!

Every summer, the NSW Police and RSPCA NSW receive hundreds of calls from concerned people who have found animals left alone in hot cars.



When left in a car, **even if it's parked in the shade with the windows partially down**, it can take just **6 minutes*** for an animal to suffer severe heatstroke and die.

The below graphic demonstrates how quickly your car can become **dangerously hot!****

Temperature outside the car (°C)	21°	23°	26°	29°	32°	35°
Temperature inside the car after 10 minutes	32°	34°	37°	40°	43°	46°
Temperature inside the car after 30 minutes	40°	43°	46°	48°	51°	54°

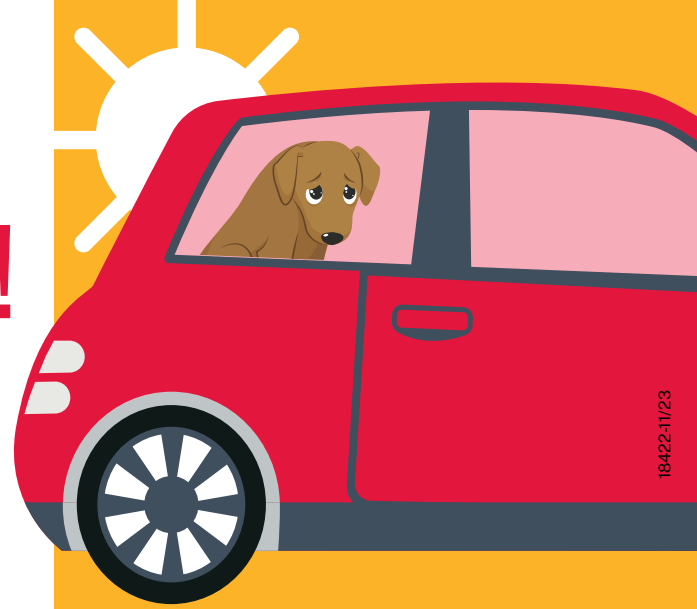
Because dogs cool themselves through panting, they are particularly at risk in a hot car. If the air around them is too hot, dogs cannot lower their body temperature back to where it should be. While heatstroke is a danger to all dogs, those particularly at risk include:

- short-nosed breeds such as pugs and bulldogs
- thick coated breeds such as golden retrievers
- younger or older dogs
- those that are overweight or have existing medical conditions

WARNING – by the time the signs of heatstroke are noticeable, it may be too late to save your pet.



If you see a dog in a hot car that looks distressed and cannot locate the owner, call for help from the RSPCA NSW on **1300 278 358**, the NSW Police on **000** or Animal Welfare League on **02 8777 4444** and monitor the dog until help arrives.



Signs of heatstroke may include:



Lethargy



Heavy panting, difficulty breathing, and/or excessive thirst



Bright red tongue & gums, which turn grey as shock sets in



Thick saliva, drooling, vomiting and/or diarrhoea



Unsteadiness, staggering or collapse

If your dog is exhibiting signs of heatstroke:

- Move them to a shaded or air-conditioned space, or into the path of a circulating fan, and provide small amounts of cool water to drink
- Reduce their core temperature by pouring cool (not cold) water over areas where there is little or no fur, such as the belly or arm pits
- Heatstroke can damage your pets' internal organs and be life-threatening, so take your dog immediately to the vet to be checked over.

* justsixminutes.com.au

** tails.com

