

Educate Yourself

HELPING THE PET NEXT DOOR • TEAR-OUT FLYER TO USE

Love Your Pet: Leave Them at Home Campaign

We all love our pets. And in our hectic lives, they spend many hours alone at home. Often we want to maximize our time with them, so we take them along for the ride as we run errands. However, this love for our pet and desire for their companionship can quickly turn deadly.

You may be thinking, "But my pet loves to go with me in the car." Of course they do, but they don't understand the risks. Your dog doesn't understand that chocolate isn't good for them and, if you let them, they probably would eat it all day. But you know that it can make them sick. The same goes for sitting in a car.

We go into the grocery store for "just a minute" and twenty minutes later after running into a neighbor and remembering just one more thing to buy, our quick errand has become our pet's struggle to survive. Perhaps you have seen a pet in a car and wondered where their guardian is, how long it will be before they return, and whether or not you should help.

When it comes to pets in cars, common sense rules. Since you cannot take them into most businesses with you, leave

them in the comfort of the home. Research shows that the temperatures inside a car can quickly turn deadly.

A study published in *Pediatrics** in 2005 showed that regardless of outside air temperatures (measured 72 to 96°F), temperatures inside a car increased an average of 40°F within an hour with 80% of the temperature rise occurring during the first 30 minutes.

For outside temperatures from 74°F and higher, it took less than 30 minutes for temperatures to rise above 110°F – temperatures that are deadly to animals and children.

Many people think that parking in the shade, cracking the windows, or running the air conditioner from home to the store keeps Fido safe from the heat. However, the study in *Pediatrics* showed that this did not impact the rate at which the temperature increased inside a vehicle.

So, what can you do to help? Leave your pet at home and join the SPCA in



This puppy died because his owner left him in a hot car. Read how the SPCA helps abused animals get justice (page 9).

the campaign, "Love Your Pet: Leave Them at Home." Below are tools to help you be a community advocate for these animals who cannot ask for help themselves. **This flyer is available for download at www.spcawake.org/blog.**



* McLaren, C., Null, J., & Quinn, J. (2005). Heat Stress From Enclosed Vehicles: Moderate Ambient Temperatures Cause Significant Temperature Rise in

Above:

In the **SPCA June E-Newsletter**, the SPCA told you about this puppy that died over the Memorial Day weekend. He died after being shut in a car for 24 hours. A Raleigh resident has been charged with animal cruelty for shutting the puppy in her car and then leaving town.

Read the complete story and see court updates at www.spcawake.org/blog For breaking news, subscribe to the monthly SPCA E-Newsletter.

www.spcawake.org/education

Scenario: YOU SEE A PET IN A CAR AND WOULD LIKE TO EDUCATE THE OWNER OF POTENTIAL DANGERS:

IS IT TOO HOT TO LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR TODAY?

HOT TEMPERATURES CAN BE FATAL TO YOUR PET.



On warm summer days, it can take **less 15 minutes** for temperatures in your car to rise above **110°F** – temperatures that are deadly to animals and children. And it has been proven that cracking the windows, running the a/c from home to the store, or parking in the shade doesn't make a difference!

PLUS, YOU MAY BE BREAKING THE LAW.

Local ordinances in Raleigh, Cary, Garner and Wake County at large definition of abuse includes leaving animals in motor vehicles where conditions such as temperature, lack of food or drink could cause physical pain, suffering or death.

**IF YOU LOVE THEM,
LEAVE THEM AT HOME.**



This message was provided to a concerned citizen by the SPCA.

WWW.SPCAWAKE.ORG

Scenario:

YOU NEED TO HELP A PET IN DISTRESS FROM HEAT:

- Learn the signs of heat exhaustion – restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, rapid pulse, fever, vomiting, glazed eyes, dizziness, or lack of coordination.
- If the dog shows any of these symptoms, move them to shade or air conditioning right away.
- Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck, and chest or immerse the animal in cool (not cold) water.
- Try to get them to drink cool water or lick ice cubes.
- Take them directly to a veterinarian. 🐾

Scenario:

YOU SEE A PET IN TROUBLE IN A HOT CAR:

Follow these suggestions provided by Animal Control Officers from Wake County, Raleigh, Cary and Garner:

- Write down a description of the pet, the car, and the license plate number. Ask businesses to announce over a PA system that the guardian of the pet needs to return to the vehicle.
- If the guardian of the pet is not located or does not return to the vehicle, call 911. Provide the description of the pet, the car, and the license plate number and explain that there is a pet in a hot car.
- **Police dispatch will send an animal control officer or local law enforcement to the location.** No matter how much you want to, do not open the car yourself.
- Animal Control requests that you stay in the area to help them more easily identify the location of the animal. However, they ask that you refrain from engaging the owner. **Often officers called out to help a distressed animal must first deal with altercations between guardians and concerned citizens.**

For your own safety and that of the pet, report the situation, be available for locating the animal, and avoid confrontation with the guardian.

Cancel the call if the person leaves before animal control can arrive. 🐾