

Your Car is an Oven! And Beware the 4th

**YOUR CAR IS AN OVEN/HEATSTROKE** Seems that in spite of repeated warnings, peeps are still leaving dogs (and kids) in their cars. When the outdoor temperature is in the low 70's the temperature inside of a car can reach 102° in 10 minutes and 120° within 30 minutes time. This is with the windows down and the car in the shade!

The most often heard excuse is 'But Fifi loves to go in the car and pouts when I don't take her.' What Fifi doesn't realize is she only sweats through her paws (and a little through her nose) and humidity affects her ability to regulate her body temperature. Leaving her inside a car, **EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS DOWN**, is like putting her in an oven. Once a dog has entered heatstroke, it can die within 20 minutes and it is not a pleasant way to go. Internal organs shut down, there is often bleeding through the nose and mouth, fluid seeps from the body, and the list goes on. So that's the ugly truth folks, leave your dog at home, not in the car.

A dog doesn't have to be locked in a car to suffer from heatstroke. A dog who is outside for during the heat of the day or even confined in a warm house can develop heatstroke. Signs of heat stroke in dogs include but are not limited to: panting, hyperventilation (deep breathing), salivation early then dry gums, warm, dry skin, high fever, rapid heartbeat, vomiting, diarrhea and sometimes bleeding, and collapse. If you suspect your dog is suffering from heat stroke, immediately see your veterinarian. Soak towels in cool water to cover him during the car ride there.

In addition to heatstroke symptoms, the following signs often require an immediate trip to your veterinarian: bleeding, difficulty breathing, burns, cuts and gashes, enlarged abdomen, paralysis, ingestion of foreign items or substances, profuse vomiting or diarrhea, seizures, straining to urinate, and any kind of trauma (falling, hit by car, etc.). Always call your veterinarian for instructions when your pet has any of these symptoms or is simply not acting 'normal' to you.

**4<sup>th</sup> of JULY ANXIETY** The internet provides some pretty sad stories of pets who have been lost or seriously injured during 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, from dogs who have been terrified all their lives of fireworks or thunderstorms to older dogs who have simply 'freaked out' after years of not being bothered by them. The rules are pretty basic for keeping your pet safe during 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations:

1. Do not take your pet to fireworks displays.
2. Do not leave your pet in the car.
3. Keep your pets indoors at home in a sheltered, quiet area.
4. If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4<sup>th</sup>. Your veterinarian can prescribe medications and assist you in behavior modification to help alleviate fear and anxiety.
5. Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain.
6. Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly.