



Too HOT for Spot®

When the temperature rises,
leave your pet at home.

ARL's annual pet safety campaign, Too Hot for Spot, reminds pet owners about the dangers their pets face when temperatures begin to rise.

HEAT STROKE: A deadly consequence of leaving your pet in a hot car

Q. What is heat stroke?

A. Heat stroke is a serious condition caused by your pet's body overheating, usually as a result of prolonged exposure to high temperatures.

Q. What makes cats and dogs susceptible to heat stroke?

A. Pets don't sweat the way humans do, which makes them unable to cool their bodies efficiently in the heat. If their core body temperature rises too high, they run the risk of going into shock or organ failure. Even when the mercury dips below 80 degrees, the threat for heat stroke still exists.

Q. Which symptoms should I look for when trying to diagnose heat stroke in my pet?

A. More obvious symptoms include: difficulty breathing, fever, dizziness, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness. More subtle symptoms include: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, excessive thirst, and lethargy.



If you suspect that your pet is suffering from heat stroke, seek immediate medical attention from a veterinarian.

5 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PET SAFE

1. Prevention is always your best bet. Leave your pet at home in a cool room.
2. If your pet must be outdoors, find a shady spot with ample air flow.
3. Hydration is key, so keep a bowl of cold water accessible at all times.
4. Limit exercise to morning or evening hours when temperatures are coolest.
5. Never leave your pet alone in a parked car—even with the air conditioner on or the windows cracked.

Vehicle Temperature	
Outside	Inside
94°	145°
81°	138°
75°	118°

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IT'S THE LAW!

Massachusetts General Law, chapter 140, section 174F, prohibits the confinement of any animal in a motor vehicle when extreme heat or cold could reasonably be expected to threaten the health of the animal.

Q. What can first responders do?

A. First responders –including animal control officers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters – may, after making reasonable efforts to locate the motor vehicle's owner, enter the vehicle by any reasonable means to protect the health and safety of animals; and must leave a written notice with information on where the animal may be retrieved.

Q. What can I do?

A. If a person finds an animal in a motor vehicle, he or she must make reasonable efforts to locate the motor vehicle's owner. The person cannot enter the motor vehicle to protect the health and safety of the animal unless the person notifies law enforcement or calls 911 before entering the vehicle. If the vehicle is locked, the person must use reasonable means to retrieve the animal. The person must also have a good faith belief that entry into the vehicle is necessary to prevent imminent danger or harm to the animal. Finally, the person must remain with the animal after retrieving the animal in a safe location near the motor vehicle until a responder arrives.

Q. What does this law include?

A. Dogs cannot be tethered to a stationary object for longer than 5 hours. They cannot be tethered outside from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, unless for 15 minutes or less and when an owner, guardian, or keeper is present. Dogs must not be confined outside when a weather advisory, warning, or watch is issued or when environmental conditions pose a risk to the health or safety of the dog. The law authorizes law enforcement officers from ARL and MSPCA to issue citations for violations when an animal control officer is unavailable or unresponsive.

