

Your Vehicle and Your Pet



Lots of people get a real kick out of seeing a family's cherished pet looking back at them through a car window. Pets always seem particularly excited about where they're going not to mention their next snoot full of air. Given how much we love our pets and how they often share our vehicles, we want to share some tips we hope you'll find helpful.

One important bit of information deals with leaving your pet in the vehicle while you visit or conduct business. Special care must be taken in the warmer months not to have your pet remain behind in the vehicle for too long a period of time. There are several important factors to take into account.

On a sunny day with temperatures in the lower 70's the interior of a vehicle will heat up very rapidly.

Studies show that under these conditions, inside cabin temps can reach as high as 95 degrees in just 10 minutes. At 90 degrees the cabin will climb to 120 degrees in the same amount of time.

These high temperatures added to the stress the animal feels being alone will put their health at serious risk.

A lack of drinking water can amplify the problem. Just like with humans, the very young, the elderly, and those who are overweight are especially vulnerable to heat stroke.

There are several things you can do to protect and care for your pet when you must leave them in the vehicle:

- Park in the shade – avoid direct sunlight and take into account how the shade will change as the sun moves through the sky.
- **Make water available in the vehicle. Many pet stores sell spill proof water containers for less than twenty dollars.**
- Purchase a car fan that can be run off the cigarette lighter to circulate cabin air.
- Open more than one window in the vehicle to allow for additional ventilation. You will have to consider a margin of safety that allows for good ventilation without making your pet vulnerable to strangers.



Consider patronizing businesses that are pet friendly.



Chief among safety tips for vehicle travel and pets is avoiding putting your pet in the front passenger seat. In the event of an accident the air bag will deploy at over 200 miles per hour with the potential for serious injury to the animal.

There are a variety of websites devoted to making travel with your pet much more comfortable and safe. A simple Google search on the subject will give you access to websites like petautosafety.com where you can find pet travel and safety products and tips.