



# Dogs & Hot Cars Don't Mix

Everyone loves taking their dog for a car ride especially during the summer season. Always remember it takes only minutes for a dog left in a vehicle on a warm day to succumb to heatstroke and suffocation. Most people do not realize how hot it can get in a parked car on a balmy day. In fact, researchers learned that when it's a sunny 25 degrees outside, the temperature in a parked car with the windows cracked rises at least 32 degrees in 30 minutes. That means in 30 minutes the internal temperature in your car could reach 57 degrees!

In the fifteen minutes it took you to pop into the grocery store, the temperature in your car could reach 40 degrees and give your dog a stroke or worse! Experts recommend not to leave pets in parked cars even for short periods if the temperature is 15 degrees or higher. Rolling down a window or parking in the shade does not guarantee protection. Even in the shade, a car can be 10 to 20 degrees hotter than outdoors, and cracking the window has almost no effect.

Dogs are designed to conserve heat. Their sweat glands, which exist on their nose and the pads of their feet, are inadequate for cooling during hot days. Panting and drinking water helps cool them, but if they only have overheated air to breathe, dogs can suffer brain and organ damage after just 15 minutes.

If you travel with your dog this summer, remember to bring fresh water and a bowl. If you cannot leave water out while on the go, offer water at each destination. This is more important than remembering your dog's leash, treats, or toys, and your dog will thank you.

## **Want To Learn More?**

Contact CRD Animal Control at  
250.478.0624 or visit [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca).

The logo for CRD (City of Richmond Dog Services) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the letters 'CRD' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a teal background that features a wavy, abstract design.