

## Dog Days of Summer...

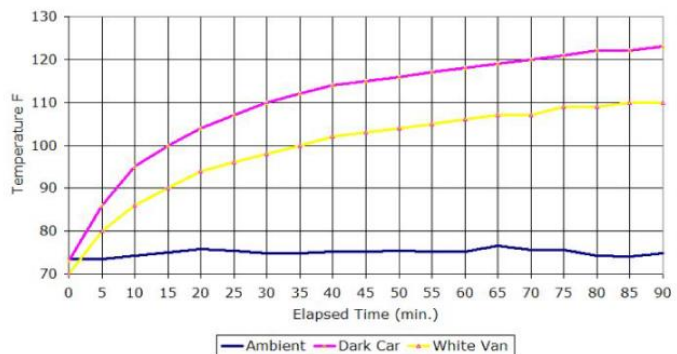


Those blazing hot days of summer are here, so keep in mind that heat stroke can happen quickly. Dogs cool themselves by panting, and in extreme heat or poorly ventilated areas, panting becomes ineffective, heat stroke and death can occur within minutes. Short-nosed breeds such as the Boxer, Shih Tzus, Pugs, and Bulldogs are at greater risk for heat stroke than other breeds.

The most common sign of heat stroke is excessive panting. Thick, ropey saliva is often apparent. Some dogs may appear restless or agitated, but many with heat stroke are found lying on their side, unable to stand. Sometimes they extend their limbs and heads in a rigid posture. The color of the gums may be dark and muddy or may be pale as shock occurs. Temperature readings of dogs with heat stroke are often higher than 106 °F.

If you think your dog is suffering heat stroke, move her immediately to a cooler, better ventilated environment- at least into some shade. Wet her down with cool tap water and turn on a fan. Do not use cold or icy water, as this will cause superficial blood vessels to constrict, which will trap the heat inside rather than allowing it to dissipate. Do not try to force oral fluids. If you can take the rectal temperature, do so and record your finding. Seek veterinary attention as soon as possible, as heat stroke affects every system in the body and can be catastrophic.

Enclosed Vehicle Temperature vs. Time  
(Primary & Secondary)



Keep your pets safe from the summer heat by keeping them in well ventilated, shaded areas. Remember the temperature inside a car can rise to over 150 °F in just minutes, so don't leave a pet in the car. Make sure they have access to plenty of fresh water, as dehydration can occur quickly in hot weather and increases the risk for heat stroke. There are many easily portable water bowls that can be used when you are away from home. Keep in mind, too, hot asphalt can burn a dog's feet, so walk on the grass whenever possible. Have a fun and safe summer!

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