



Contact: Brett Youngsteadt, DVM, Administrator (630) 232-3555

Kane County Animal Control Reminds Pet Owners: Don't Leave Your Best Friend in a Hot Car This Summer

June 9, 2021 – After sheltering in place for over a year, it feels good to get outside and feel the warmth of the summer sun. But before you throw the dog in the car and rush off to complete long-awaited tasks, Kane County Animal Control reminds everyone of the “Pets in Hot Cars” ordinance in Kane County.

It's a sad fact that every year, hundreds of pets die due to being left in parked cars. These deaths could have been prevented if their owners had realized that even though it didn't seem that warm outside, inside a parked car with the sun beating down on the car's metal exterior, the heat inside the car can rise 20° F in just 10 minutes. The longer the vehicle sits, the higher the temperature goes inside the vehicle.

That 30-minute dash into the store with Fluffy stranded in the car on a cloudy 75° day with the windows cracked a little can prove deadly. By the time you return to your parking place, the inside temperature of the automobile has risen to 109°.

Cracking a window open doesn't change the situation at all. A hot car is still a hot car inside and out, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Dogs don't sweat like we humans do. They do it through their paw pads and “through the expansion of blood vessels in their ears and face” (*American Kennel Club*). Heat stroke can occur very quickly in a dog when their body temperature rises and can be fatal if not treated immediately.

(more)

Kane County Animal Control Reminds Pet Owners: Don't Leave Your Best Friend in a Hot Car This Summer – page 2

There is a Kane County ordinance specifically written to protect pets from an untimely death in an automobile by heat stroke. It partially reads as follows:

5/34. Confinement in motor vehicle and animal transport.

No owner or person shall confine any animal in a motor vehicle or enclosed trailer in such a manner that places it in a life or health threatening situation by exposure to a prolonged period of extreme heat (>86 degrees F) or cold (20 degrees F), without proper ventilation or other protection from such heat or cold.

The law also gives permission for police officers to enter a motor vehicle by *any reasonable means* after making an effort to locate the owner and rescue the pet if they believe the health and safety of the animal is being violated.

Our pets stayed with us through the pandemic. They are loyal, supportive friends that need our protection from the heat this summer. Reward your best friend for their loyalty by ensuring that this is the summer where no pets perish in cars due to heatstroke. Make the decision to leave your best friend at home in a cool, safe house.

###