

# ***Heat Stress***

## ***Symptoms***

- Danger signals to watch for in a dog or cat:
  1. heavy panting
  2. rapid breathing
  3. staggering
  4. weakness
- When breathing suddenly becomes quiet with any of these symptoms, the animal may collapse.
- A heat-stricken animal can die in minutes, but proper care may save its life.

## ***Treatment***

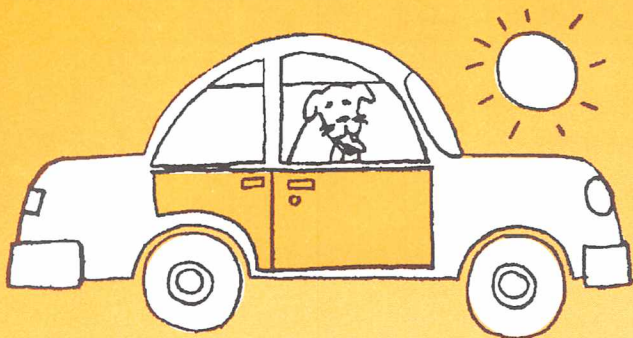
- Immediately bring the animal to a shady spot.
- Slowly cool the animal by placing it in cool, not cold, water. Reduce body heat gradually.
- Apply ice packs to the head and neck.
- Take the distressed pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment for dehydration and other serious problems will be necessary.

## ***Intervention***

If you see an animal locked in a car on a hot day:

- Locate the owner as quickly as possible. If the car is parked at a store, ask a store employee to page the owner.
- If the owner cannot be found quickly, call the police to free the animal from the car. Take first-aid measures noted above.

# ***Warning: Hot Cars Kill Pets!***



**T**he inside of a car can heat up to 110° F in 10 minutes on an 80° F day—even with the windows slightly open. Your pet will suffer needlessly and could die when left in your car even on a moderately hot day.

And consider this: causing an animal to be subjected to unnecessary cruelty or suffering is illegal in Massachusetts and is punishable by imprisonment for up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

***Your pet would be  
safer at home.***