

## IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL ALONE IN A CAR AND THEY ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE:

This is an emergency, and you should call the Police or RSPCA right away. If you're in a car park, you can also contact Centre Management for advice.

POLICE:	000
RSPCA ACT:	02 6287 8100
RSPCA NSW:	1300 278 3589
RSPCA NT:	1300 720 386
RSPCA QLD:	1300 264 625
RSPCA SA:	1300 477 722
RSPCA TAS:	1300 139 947
RSPCA VIC:	03 9224 2222
RSPCA WA:	1300 278 3589

**Do not break the glass to rescue an animal.** You can injure yourself or the animal, and the animal may escape in the process. **Instead, ask the Police for advice when you call them.**

Act without  
delay and **you**  
**could save an**  
**animal's life.**

**RSPCA** 

**RSPCA** 

# ANIMALS DIE IN HOT CARS

don't risk their life, don't leave them alone



The temperature inside a car can rapidly rise to **dangerous levels that can cause life-threatening heatstroke. Leaving an animal alone in a car can kill them.**

The RSPCA receives countless distress calls each year concerning animals left alone in cars.

The inside of a vehicle can quickly climb to dangerous temperatures, even in average weather temperatures when the car is in the shade and the windows are down.

**In fact, some of Australia's winter temperatures are high enough that an animal left alone in a car for a short period of time can be at risk.**

These risks don't just apply to cars. The surface of tray-back utes can also get extremely hot, and animals left on the back of utes without shade and water are also at risk of heat-related injury or death.

**Take animals with you if you leave the car, or leave them safely at home.**

## **Heatstroke is a life-threatening emergency!**

### **Signs of heatstroke may include:**

- heavy panting
- difficulty breathing
- pale or red gums
- excessive drooling
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- weakness
- lethargy
- confusion
- lack of coordination
- seizures
- collapse

### **How to help an animal suffering from heatstroke:**

If you suspect an animal is suffering from heatstroke, you need to act fast to reduce their body temperature and get help. It is vital that the animal is moved to a cool, shaded, well-ventilated environment and emergency first aid is given to cool them down. Apply room-temperature or cool water to their fur/skin, avoiding their head. Offer water if they are alert and able to drink. Seek veterinary attention immediately, and when transporting them to the vet, do this in a cool and well-ventilated vehicle.

**Leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle can quickly put them at risk of heatstroke. If an animal suffers as a result, this may constitute an offence under animal welfare laws.**

## **Never leave an animal unattended in a car!**

not even **in the shade...**  
not even **with the windows down...**  
not even **when it feels cool...**  
not even **for a few minutes...**

Even on mild days, car interiors heat up quickly, putting animals at risk of suffering or death.

