

# Dogs in Extreme Weather

## Guidance Document

Every dog is an individual and decisions must be made based on the dog in front of you.

You are responsible for the wellbeing of dogs in your charge.

### Never Ever Leave Your Dog in a Hot Car



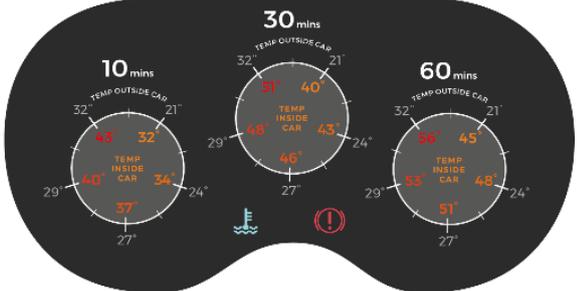
Just a 2°C increase in a dog's body temperature is all it takes for heat stroke to kick in. Fatalities can occur in as little as 15 minutes.

Studies show opening the windows has little effect on temperatures

It can take as little as 15 minutes for a dog to die of heat stroke

Cars left in the shade can also heat up to dangerous levels

#### How quickly does a car heat up?



Be prepared this summer. Save your pet emergency service number now. [vets-now.com/summer](http://vets-now.com/summer)



- Labradors, Golden Retrievers and crosses with these breeds are large.
- Spaniels and Spaniel crosses are medium.

### When Is It TOO COLD & TOO HOT?

F	C	Small	Medium	Large	
95°	35°	5	5	5	+1 if obese.
90°	32°	5	5	5	+1 brachycephalic.
85°	29°	4	4	5	+1 if under 6 months or senior.
80°	24°	3	3	4	-1 if shade available.
75°	23°	3	3	3	-1 if readily available water.
70°	21°	2	2	3	
65°	18°	1	1	2	
60°	16°	1	1	1	<b>1</b> No evidence of risk: have fun outside!
55°	13°	1	1	1	<b>2</b> Risk is unlikely: have fun outside, but be careful.
50°	10°	2	1	1	<b>3</b> Unsafe potential for certain breeds when outside.
45°	7°	2	2	1	<b>4</b> Dangerous weather: use caution.
40°	4°	3	3	2	<b>5</b> Life-threatening: avoid prolonged outdoor activity.
35°	2°	3	3	3	
30°	-1°	3	3	3	
25°	-4°	4	4	3	
20°	-7°	5	4	3	
15°	-9°	5	4	4	
10°	-12°	5	5	5	+2 if wet weather is present.
5°	-15°	5	5	5	-1 if northern breed or heavy coat.
0°	-18°	5	5	5	-1 if dog is acclimated to cold.

Source: [www.gopetplan.com](http://www.gopetplan.com)

## Do

- Park in the shade.
- Use a sun deflector.
- Cool or heat vehicle before placing dog in the car.
- Travel in cooler parts of the day where possible.
- Plan your journey in advance.
- Activities only appropriate for the dog at the time.
- Ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Consider the humidity as well as the air temperature.
- Consider age and health status of your dog.
- Complete surface check before conducting activities.
- check temperature of location dog is being returned to after activities.
- Consider if a jacket or bandana is appropriate.
- Continue to monitor the dog for any signs it is not coping well.

## Don't

- Conduct activities your dog may be unable to cope with.
- Leave your dog in vehicle above 21°.
- Leave any cooling equipment in a vehicle.
- Leave your dog in a vehicle below 0°.

## Equipment

The below equipment includes but is not an exhaustive list of equipment to have in extremes of temperature

- Plenty of water – enough to keep a water bowl full and cool a dog down if required.
- Water bowl- each dog must always have access to water.
- Towels
- Windscreen cover
- Cool mat – check before use and only use if cool. This should not be stored in cars as can get hot and have a negative effect.

# Temperature Guidance chart

Every dog is an individual and should be treated as such. The handler of the dog is responsible for their wellbeing at all times. All decisions need to be based on the dog and situation at the time. Temperature is not the only consideration.

Temperature	Action	Equipment required
-0.5 ° C and below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ DO NOT leave dogs in vehicles below this temperature.</li> <li>→ Wash/wipe dogs' feet/legs after outdoor activities where salt/grit may be present.</li> <li>→ Towel dry the dog if wet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Towels/blankets close by (i.e. in home or car)</li> <li>→ Foot bath or flannels for wiping feet to ensure no salt/grit remains on dog.</li> </ul>
0°C – 21 ° C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Minimal risk of weather impacting activities – however monitor each dog closely and treat as an individual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No additional equipment required.</li> </ul>
21 ° C and above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ DO NOT leave dogs in vehicles above this temperature.</li> <li>→ Only conduct activities appropriate for individual dogs age, condition &amp; stamina</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Plenty of water</li> <li>→ Water bowl inc. travel water bowl for carrying on walks etc.</li> <li>→ Towels</li> <li>→ Fully charged phone</li> </ul>
26 ° C and above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No high energy activities</li> <li>→ No taking the dogs out in public</li> <li>→ Limit travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Plenty of water</li> <li>→ Water bowl inc. travel water bowl for carrying on walks etc.</li> <li>→ Towels</li> <li>→ Fully charged phone</li> </ul>
31 ° C and above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Stop all activities and concentrate on keeping dogs cool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Plenty of water</li> <li>→ Fan</li> </ul>



*For making life possible*