



ANIMAL  
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## Sample Letter To The Editor

[[www.mydogiscool.com](http://www.mydogiscool.com)]

Dear Editor:

As the summer heats up, it's important that people be made aware of the dangers of leaving their companion animals inside hot cars. Every year, dogs die after being locked inside cars while their guardians work, visit, shop, or run other errands. These tragic deaths are entirely preventable.

Every time we drive with a dog, we need to ask ourselves, "Is it too hot to take my dog along today?"

Warm weather can literally be a killer for a dog left inside a car. When it's 85 degrees out, the temperature inside a car — even with the windows left slightly open — can soar to 102 degrees in 10 minutes, and can reach 120 in just half an hour. On hotter days, the temperature will climb even higher. Outside temperatures in the 70s can be dangerous, as well.

The Animal Protection Institute has launched "My Dog is Cool ... is Yours?," an initiative to let people know that even leaving a dog in a car for "just a few minutes" may be too long. A dog's normal body temperature ranges from 101 to 102.5 degrees. Dogs can withstand a body temperature of 107 to 108 degrees for only a very short period of time before suffering brain damage — or even death.

If your dog is overcome by the heat, immediately soak him or her with water, and seek veterinary care as soon as possible. And if you see a dog in a potentially dangerous situation in a hot car, call your local police department or humane society.

Remember, it's just not cool to leave a dog in a hot car. For more information, visit [www.MyDogIsCool.com](http://www.MyDogIsCool.com).