

What to Do if You See a Pet Left in a Parked Car

It only takes a minute to save a life

By Andrea Craun

Cool temperatures outside don't mean it's cool inside your parked car. On a 72 degree day (Fahrenheit) your car can heat up to 116 degrees (Fahrenheit) within an hour. Leaving a pet in a hot car can cause irreparable organ damage and even death. Leaving the window down has little effect on the inside temperature of a car. So what can you legally do if you see a pet in a parked car?



Make a note of the make, model, and license plate number of the car.

Ask any businesses nearby to page the car's owner.

If the owner of the car cannot be found, call the local police or animal control agency and wait at the car until they arrive.

Since pets get left in the car often, you should be prepared to take action. Know the laws in your area about leaving pets locked in cars. You should also have the phone numbers for the local police and animal control agency on hand. Keep these numbers in your purse, wallet, or program them into your phone.

Remember pets left in car can suffer organ damage and death. Leaving the windows cracked doesn't help cool down the inside temperature of the car. Be responsible, be prepared and help save a life.