



ARL
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF IOWA, INC.

Weather Concerns

Too Hot!

Every summer, thousands of cats and dogs die needlessly after they are left inside cars. Even when car windows are slightly open and pet owners are gone "just for a minute" the rapid buildup of heat inside the car can reach well over 160 degrees in a few minutes.

Pets don't sweat like people do. They cool themselves through their lungs by panting. When the air becomes too hot, brain damage and eventual death results.

Shaded parking areas, open windows and air conditioned cars with the motors off will not prevent your pet's death from heat prostration.

If you must take your pet along in the car, have another person stay with it while you're gone. Ask him or her to take the animal for a walk or a rest in the shade. Provide fresh, cool water to drink.

Act immediately if you see an animal enclosed in a car on a summer day. Call the nearest police officer or humane organization for help.

Information provided by The Humane Society of the United States

Too Cold!

General Winter Concerns

- Winter's cold air brings lots of concerns for responsible owners: Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Windchill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature and limit time outdoors.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured.
- Groom your dog regularly. Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep him properly insulated. Short or course-haired dogs may get extra cold so consider a sweater or coat. Long-



haired dogs should have their paw hair clipped to ease snow removal and the cleaning of their feet.

- Feed your dog additional calories if he spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.
- Towel or blow-dry your dog if he gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean his paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. (A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.)
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car. It gets too cold and carbon monoxide from an engine left running is dangerous.