



where pets come first

## **PETS AT HOME URGES PET OWNERS NOT TO LEAVE DOGS IN HOT CARS**

As Brits continue to enjoy the warmer summer temperatures, Pets at Home is reminding pet owners to **never** leave their dogs in a car on a warm day, even if just for a minute.

The leading pet retailer has warned that even parking in a shaded spot, leaving a window open or having a sunshield on windscreens is not enough to keep cars and pets cool and most importantly, safe.

On a warm day the temperature inside a car can rise rapidly in minutes. With little or no air, dogs can easily suffer from heatstroke in less than 20 minutes, which can be fatal.

Maeve Moorcroft MVB MRCVS, head of pets at Pets at Home, said: "Keeping your pet cool in the summer is an essential part of being a responsible pet owner. Dogs can get hot very easily, but have no way of telling you, meaning they can suffer from heatstroke or worse. The advice is simple: never leave your pet in a car alone when the weather is warm, even for just a few minutes.

If you do have to travel with a dog, be sure to pack plenty of water and ideally a cooling spray. Ensure the car is kept well-ventilated – but don't let your pet stick its head out the window, as this can be dangerous. When, you leave your car, use it as an opportunity to give your dog a break, to let it cool off and stretch its legs."

Pets at Home advises anyone who spots a dog left in a car on a hot day to contact their local authorities or RSPCA immediately.

If the dog appears to be in distress, act quickly, moving them to a shaded, cool area and gently sponge them with a cool wet cloth. Encourage them to try and sip some water and call a vet immediately.

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For more information please contact Pets at Home PR team on 0161 236 2277 or [prpets@havasww.com](mailto:prpets@havasww.com)

**Notes to Editors:**

**Pets at Home** offers great products, tips and advice to keep your pet happy and healthy. From specialist pet food to toys and training aids, there is everything a pet owner could wish for and more.

There are more than 370 Pets at Home stores across the UK. Log onto [www.petsathome.com](http://www.petsathome.com) to find your nearest store and for further information

Pets at Home are proud winners of The Sunday Times Top 25 Best Big Companies to Work for in 2013.