

& dialogue

Summer's heat threat to animals

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News Editor

Everyone has heard of the tale about the kid who put his cat in the microwave to dry it off, right? Seems stupid? The result was death. The same result is possible when animals are left in a car during the summer.

Case after case is reported to the Oregon Humane Society during the hotter months of the year. It is not a myth. Whether the windows are rolled down may not make a difference, so do not kid yourself.

Actually it should not take warnings to make humans aware of this situation as anyone knows about the heat and stickiness that accompanies an automobile in the summer. Even knowing that a car's temperature rises far beyond the unbearable temperatures outside, we leave our four-legged friends to wait in the car while we shop, eat or what have you.

Leaving Spot in the car while we make a quick jaunt into the store won't hurt him, right? If he would rather be dead than alive I am sure he won't mind.

In fact, the Oregon Humane Society assured that in a normal summer time temperature of 85 degrees if that quick jaunt is going to take you more than ten minutes your dog is heading toward some problems.

A spokesman for the Humane Society stated the facts quite clearly. A dog has a body temperature between 102-103 degrees and if it rises above 104 degrees, the dog is running into some severe problems.

No problem, once a dog starts getting hot he will start to perspire like humans as a process of cooling off. Sorry Ace, the only means in which a dog or cat can 'cool down' is to exhale their hot air and inhale cooler air.

The odds are still in favor of Spot since it is only 85 degrees out, right? This is where the trouble begins for the dog—even though it is only a warm 85 degrees in the sunshine, the car gets approximately 25 percent hotter within the first ten minutes.

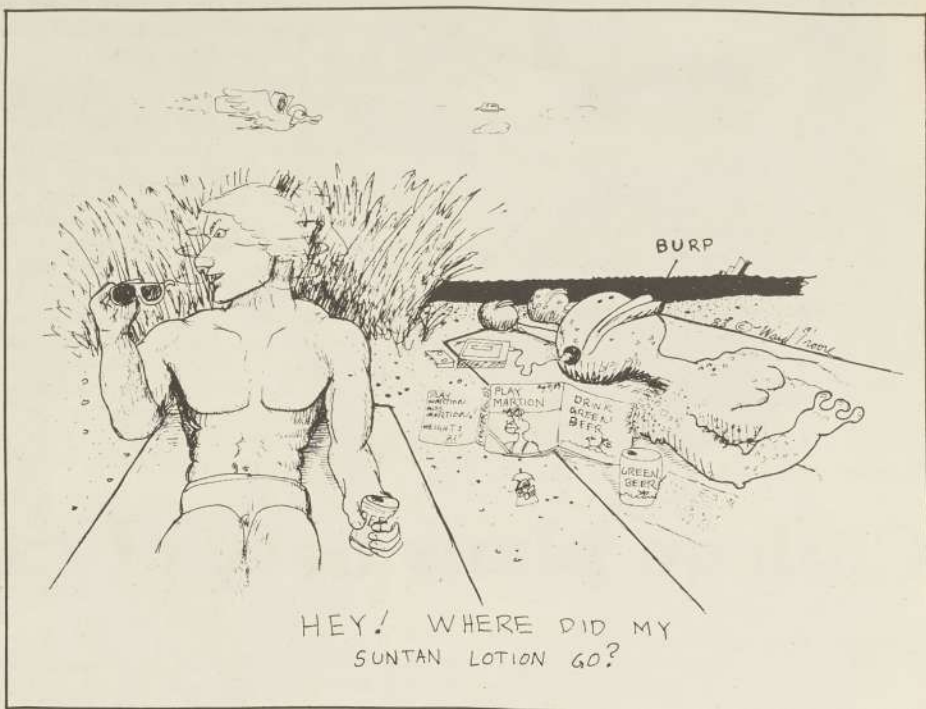
The Humane Society confirms that in a parked, closed car in 85 degrees weather, the temperature in the car reaches 102 degrees in 10 minutes. After thirty minutes it tops 120 degrees, and Spot can only endure that temperature for a maximum of 10 minutes.

As the temperatures outside increase, so do the dangers. Who would be stupid enough to leave Spot in a car with all the windows up? Don't overestimate the knowledge of some people.

And for the rest of you who think that leaving the windows down solves all the problems you showed your stupidity, too. Even with the windows down the car still acts "like an oven" according to the Humane Society.

The answer is easy: Do not take your dog with you; and if for some reason you think it is necessary to take them, make sure you park in a shaded, well-ventilated area.

If you're planning on having Spot give you the love and warmth he gives to you the rest of the year, keep the warmth away from him during the summer months.



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