

Heat warning for furry friends

With much of the province experiencing a heat wave heading into the Canada Day long weekend, the Ontario SPCA reminds pet owners about the dangers of leaving pets unattended in vehicles.

Parked cars can quickly reach deadly temperatures, even with the car parked in the shade and the windows open. Dogs have a limited ability to sweat, so even a short time in a hot environment can be life-threatening.

To help the Ontario SPCA raise awareness about this critical issue, hockey legend Don Cherry is urging people to get involved and take action if they see a pet in a vehicle. See his message here: YouTube Video: [YouTube.com/watch?v=UiQ5vY93low](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiQ5vY93low)

The Ontario SPCA is asking the public to share the dangers of leaving pets in vehicles using the hashtag #nohotpets on social media. You can also help make a difference by going online to nohotpets.ca to take the pledge never to leave an animal in a vehicle and to report it if you see it happen. Those who pledge will receive a free No Hot Pets window decal for their vehicles, while supplies last.

Leaving pets at home where they are cool and safe is the best option during hot summer weather. If you're travelling with your pet this weekend, plan ahead. Run errands and pick up supplies in advance of your road trip with your pet, or ensure someone is with your pet in the vehicle at all times.

On hot days like these, it only takes minutes for a vehicle to reach deadly temperatures, says Connie Mallory, Chief Inspector, Ontario SPCA. There is never an excuse for leaving your pet unattended in a vehicle not even for a minute while you run into a store.

If you see a pet suffering in the heat, call 310-SPCA (7722) or your local police immediately and ask nearby businesses to page the owner to return to their vehicle.