**Sample Letter to the Editor for My Dog is Cool**

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*Today’s date*

Dear Editor:

[*Insert a reference to an article in the paper, specific hot car incident or record heat day in your area*].

Every year, dogs die after being locked inside cars while their guardians shop or run quick errands. But these tragic deaths are entirely preventable if dog people only knew the facts!

Hot cars are death traps for dogs. When it is 72 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car can reach 116 degrees within an hour -- even with windows cracked. When it is 85 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car can climb to 102 degrees in 10 minutes and 120 degrees in 30 minutes.

A dog’s normal body temperature ranges from 101 to 102.5 degrees. Dogs can withstand a body temperature of 107 to 108 degrees for only a short time before they experience brain and nerve damage, heart problems -- and even death. Dogs cannot sweat like humans and cool off by panting. Panting in a hot car is like breathing in an oven. There's no air to cool their insides -- and seriously -- it's like cooking your dog from the inside out.

The My Dog is Cool Campaign lets people get involved to spread the word that leaving a dog in a car for even “just a few minutes” may be too long.

If you see a dog in a potentially dangerous situation in a hot car, please call your local police department, animal control agency or humane society immediately.

It’s not cool to leave a dog in a hot car. For more information, visit www.MyDogIsCool.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Name

Address

Phone Number