

# Don't leave pets in the summer heat

**By Sarah Sobanski**

With temperatures reaching summer heights, the Bancroft OPP shouldn't have to remind motorists not to leave their children or pets in their cars ? but the message just doesn't seem to have taken yet.

Police are advising drivers that leaving a child or pet in the car is dangerous. Temperatures within a vehicle can skyrocket after only a few minutes, regardless of whether the windows are cracked or if the vehicle is left in the shade. This can cause those trapped within serious or fatal harm.

?Leave [pets] at home if you're going out to the restaurant or going to the grocery store. Leave them at the cottage, tied up in the shade with plenty of fluids, plenty of water,? said Bancroft OPP Officer Philippe Regamey.

For dogs, panting, drooling and disinterest can be signs of heatstroke.

Leaving a running vehicle unattended is illegal; therefore leaving the car on with the air conditioning running is also out of the question. Regamey suggested if travelling without a pet is not an option, the car should be parked in the shade with the windows rolled as far down as possible.

?Just secure all your valuables so nothing is taken out of the vehicle,? said Regamey.

In Ontario, six out of 10 pet owners travel with their pets over the course of the year.

?It's not safe to leave children or pets alone in the vehicle, especially with the high rising temperatures during the summer. It can cause them to be dehydrated. It can cause shock, and it's just dangerous for them.?