

Keep your dog safe in and around your car



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Many North Texans have one or more dogs which they consider family. There are many dangerous scenarios when you mix dogs and automobiles. Below are just a few dangers to avoid when you have dogs around your car.

Possibly the most common automotive danger to dogs is being locked in a hot car. The Texas summers can be unbearable and to leave your dog in the car is just asking for trouble. The temperature in an enclosed car can raise incredibly fast, raising to temperatures well above 130 degrees. Leaving the windows cracked does not make the dog more comfortable. Dogs don't sweat and can't cool their bodies as easily as humans. The only way dogs can cool down is through panting and transferring heat through their paws. Don't leave your dogs in the car, not even for a minute to run into the store.

Many dogs get hit by cars or trucks. This is not always fatal but will almost always cause serious and permanent injury to the dog. Watch the street ahead of you and

around you when you are driving down neighborhood streets. Ensure that you keep your dog on a leash or lead so it doesn't run into the street. Dogs will also run under your car or truck when pulling in or out of the driveway. Keep an eye on your dog when in your driveway so that you don't accidentally run over your family pet.

Driving around in Texas you will see many trucks on the road with dogs taking a ride in the bed of the truck. This is extremely dangerous. Your dog may love riding in the open air with the breeze in his face, but the dog can easily jump or get thrown out of the pickup leading to serious injury or death. The dog may be thrown from the truck if the driver hits a large bump, pothole, or swerves to avoid danger in the road. Dogs are also easily distracted and can jump out of the bed of the truck in an effort to explore something interesting he might have seen. Do not travel with dogs in the open air bed of a pickup truck.

These are just a few of the dangers that dogs face when around automobiles. Most dog auto accidents can be avoided by practicing common sense. Children and dogs are similar when it comes to behavior, treat your dog like a small child when around automobiles. You wouldn't put your small child in the back of a truck while riding down the freeway, or leave the child in a hot car. Use the same common sense when dealing with your dog. Dogs and cars can go great together and using precaution will make it enjoyable and keep you and the dog safe.