

Summertime Considerations

Dear K9 Nose Work® enthusiasts,

As the weather is getting warmer, here are some recommendations and suggestions, if you are leaving your dog in your car between working sessions. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and weblinks may change.

- Have cool water available for your dog at all times; use a thermos/insulated flask or ice chest for the water to keep it cool. Check the water in the doggie bowl frequently to make sure it has not become warm or even hot. Some dogs also like to lick ice cubes. Please note that there is some controversy about the consumption of ice water or cubes supposedly restricting blood vessels.
- Cover your car with a reflective blanket or heat-blocking cover e. g.
 - Cool Puppy Aluminet Shade Cloth Panels: http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&Product_ID=564&ParentCat=313
 - Stock Shade Cloth, 70% Aluminet: <http://www.greenhousemegastore.com/product/70-percent-aluminet-shade-curtain/shade-cloth>
 - Cool Cap®: <http://itscoolinhere.com/>
- Keep the air-conditioning running, but make sure that windows are vented since carbon monoxide poisoning can occur as the engine is running and the exhaust fumes can still seep into the car.
- Find a shady spot to park (and remember that the earth moves and your previously shaded car might end up in the sun, so check on your dog frequently).
- Run one or more fans, and don't forget to bring additional batteries, if needed:
 - O2 Cool Indoor Outdoor Rechargeable Fan with built-in rechargeable batteries, AC adapter and car adapter: https://www.cleanrun.com/product/o2cool_smart_power_rechargeable_10_in_fan/index.cfm
 - Ryobi Portable Fan: <https://www.ryobitools.com/power-tools/products/details/18v-one-plus-portable-fan>
- Consider the following products:
 - Cooling Jackets (bear in mind that cool coats work with evaporation, so there has to be plenty of air movement for them to work (e. g. in conjunction with a wire crate and fan):
K9 Kooling Coat: https://www.horseworks.com/products/k9-kooling-coat-size-20-30?_pos=2&_sid=8690ba20b&_ss=r
 - Hurttta Cooling Vest: https://www.hurttta.com/global_en/cooling-vest
 - Chillybuddy Canine Cooling Jacket: <https://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm/product/2909/chillybuddy-canine-cooling-jacket.htm>
 - Technique Evaporative Dog Coat: <https://www.chewy.com/technique-international-evaporative/dp/141826>
 - Cooling Collar <https://www.caninecompany.com/product/1186/kool-collar.aspx> (Kool Collar)
 - Cool Bed
K&H Cool Bed III: <http://www.khmfg.com/dog-products/cooling-dog-beds-bowls/cool-bed-iii.html>

- Cool Pet Pad Self-Cooling Gel Mat:
https://www.cleanrun.com/product/cool_pet_pad_self_cooling_gel_mats/index.cfm
- Install a Ventlock Tailgate lock for additional ventilation, e. g.
https://www.cleanrun.com/product/ventlock_car_tailgate_locks/index.cfm
- Install Breeze Guards® (window screens): www.muttmanagers.com
- Install a tailgate guard – note that this company is in the UK, but will ship to the US.
BARJO Cages & Guards: <https://www.barjo.co.uk/tailgate-guards>
- Make sure that your car gas tank is full (in case you are running the A/C for long periods of time) and that you have a set of starter cables (in case the battery goes flat in case you are running your fan or ice chest on 12 V or the lights were on while the car doors are open).
- Consider getting a wireless thermometer with a sensor that you can place where the dogs are kept to monitor the temperature.

Check on your dog frequently and watch out for signs of overheating:

<http://www.petplace.com/dogs/be-a-cool-owner-don-t-let-your-dog-overheat/page1.aspx> (you do not need to register to read this article, just click "Close Window" on the pop-up window)

Signs of overheating include:

- Profuse and rapid panting
- Bright red tongue
- Thick drooling saliva
- Wide eyes with a glassy look
- Lack of coordination
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Coma

Always have the contact information for your veterinarian (or if traveling) a local vet or emergency clinic on hand.

A better alternative may be to crate your dog. There are basically 3 varieties of crates on the market: wire, plastic and cloth. If your dog is a chewer and/or escape artist, the latter is not recommended. Please bring a large sheet (preferably reflective) to cover the crate. If crating in an area with multiple dogs, please keep ample room between crates to avoid stress, anxiety and reactivity.

Happy sniffin'! ☺

Silke Wittig, BA, CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA, CNWI™
 HeRo Canine Consulting LLC
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815
 570-458-5749 or 574-612-8170 (cell)
contact@herocanineconsulting.com
www.hero-dog.com and www.facebook.com/HeRoWags