

# Motoring

## Pets in peril

sponsored  
by

   
**A.A. CLARK**  
OF  
WINDSOR  
01753 800600  
 

THE majority of pets carried in vehicles are dogs.

Last year we reported on the unhappy case of two dogs who were rescued by the RSPCA from a hot car in Windsor. According to the National Canine Defence League, less than 20 minutes in a stationary vehicle on a mildly warm day, even with the windows open, is enough to leave a dog in a critical condition gasping for breath or even facing death.

If you have to leave your pet in a car, never do so for more than a few minutes and use some simple common sense.

Park in the shade and fit reflective sunshades on the windscreen and sun-facing windows. Wind down the windows and protect the opening using a purpose-made concertina guard.

Make sure your pet has an adequate supply of water. Cars get hot even on cloudy days.

*Every day, thousands of drivers carry around a hazard in their vehicles – their pets. It's National Pet Week and with warmer weather approaching, Richard Hill finds out how to make your pet a happier passenger.*

It's ironic that most drivers ensure that their passengers are safe and secure in their seats, but many never take the same care with their animals.

### Brake sharply

If you have to brake sharply, a large dog, unrestrained on the back seat, would hit the front occupants with the same force as a baby elephant.

Dogs, therefore, should be restrained using a suitable harness.

Smaller dogs, cats and other

pets should travel in a suitable cage or carrier which should be secured in the vehicle.

Pets are usually nervous travellers because of nasty past experiences – visits to the vet, kennels or groomer, for example.

From an early age you acclimatise your pet to travelling and to the harness, cage or carrier on trips that end in 'fun' so your pet will always associate travel with a good experience.

Do not feed your pet in the 12 hours leading up to a long jour-

ney, particularly if it is prone to travel sickness.

Special non-spill water bowls are available from pet suppliers.

You should carry a plentiful supply of water from home as water from other sources can often upset a pet's digestive system.

On long journeys, make regular stops – everyone in the car needs some exercise.

If you break down, your dog should stay in the vehicle, unless it is hot. If you have to take your dog out of the car, it must be secured on a leash before you open a door.

Take your dog out of a near-side door and lead him or her away from the traffic, remembering that they might be frightened of the traffic thundering by.

■ **BELT UP:** Iris Garrett makes sure Megan is safe and secure for a trip in the car.

956X/a

