



## Hot Weather Tips: Keeping Your Nose Work Dog Cool and Safe

Dear K9 Nose Work® students,

As temperatures rise, how to keep your dog cool between working sessions or at trials becomes crucial. We are sure that there are many more ways to help your dog be comfortable, and you may want to share them with us as well. We are not endorsing any of these products, they just represent some of the options available to you.

### Keep your dog hydrated

- Always have water or ice cubes available for your dog
- Use an insulated thermos 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.
- For dogs that don't drink water, try offering pieces of watermelon or an ice cube
- DO NOT give your dog iced water; water that is too cold can cause abdominal cramps and, in some dogs, put their system into shock
- Carry a water bottle to the search elements or a spray bottle to keep your dog's nose wet and moist. A dry nose does not pick up odor very well. You can also pour water over your dog if the dog gets too hot, but don't soak your dog. A wet dripping dog is not welcome in a search area.

### Keep your dog out of the direct sun

- Cover its crate with a light weight sheet to block direct sun
- Cover your car with a reflective blanket
  - [http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category\\_id=254](http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_id=254)
  - <http://www.greenhousemegastore.com/product/70-percent-aluminet-shade-curtain/shade-cloth>
  - Use cool caps for your car <http://www.itscoolinhere.com/>
- Place your car under a Pop Up for added shade

### Keep the car temperature cool, keep all windows open

- Find a shady spot to park (and remember that the earth moves, and your previously shaded car might end up in the sun :-))
- Stay in the car with your dog and intermittently run the car air-conditioning running. Be sure if you do that you are parked far away from other cars so that the fumes from your car are not being sucked into another car or yours. Carbon monoxide is a killer. Also, be sure that you have enough gas in your car to run your air and get home. If you do this be sure your dog is in a crate or seat belted in the car.
- AC on in cars need air moving across the motor to vent carbon dioxide, so it is not recommended to run the AC for an entire trial.

### If you are not running the air conditioning in your car

- Keep your dog in a wire crate so air circulates around the dog or use window vents (not allowed at trials if your dog is loose in the car). Mesh crates may not allow as air movement like wire crates.
- Open all car windows, lift the hatch/tailgate allowing air movement (**Turn off interior lights to save your battery**)
- Run one or more fans,
  - Ryobi fans <http://www.homedepot.com/>
  - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Ryobi-18-Volt-ONE-Hybrid-Portable-Fan-Tool-Only-P3320/205022215>
  - 02 Cool Indoor Outdoor Rechargeable Fan with built-in rechargeable batteries, AC adapter and car adapter <http://www.batterysavers.com/large-rechargeable-fans.htm>
  - <https://www.cleanrun.com/> also has fans

- Be sure to buy recharger and extra batteries for fans. Batteries may not last for a trial.
- Some people make their own mini air conditioners and you can find these ideas online.
- Consider placing a frozen water bottle in front of the fan, like a 2- liter soda bottle or milk jug, the air moving over the frozen bottle will make the air cooler. Remember that the bottle will thaw, place a towel under it to capture the water.
- Artic Cove mister fans <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Arctic-Cove-18-Volt-Bucket-Top-Misting-Fan-Tool-Only-First-Generation-MBF018BTN/205397250>

### Consider using additional cooling products

- Cooling Jackets and collars can be worn while waiting in a crate and while searching or moving from element to element
  - [http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&Product\\_ID=918&ParentCat=313](http://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=product.display&Product_ID=918&ParentCat=313)
  - <http://www.pettemp.com/05koolkoatmain/05koolkoatmain6-06.htm>
- Cooling Collar [https://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category\\_ID=430](https://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=430)
- Cool Beds and Pads are great additions to crates
  - [https://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category\\_ID=392](https://www.cleanrun.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_ID=392)
  - <https://www.rover.com/blog/9-best-cooling-beds-hot-dog/>
  - K&H Cool Bed III <https://www.chewy.com/kh-pet-products-cool-bed-iii-blue/dp/46422>
- Install a Ventlock Tailgate lock for additional ventilation and security, <http://leerburg.com/1332.htm> (be sure to watch the video on how to release this if you buy it, it can be tricky 😊)
- Use window screens: some are custom made and are of steel, made to fit your vehicle's windows and help keep your dog safe and cool <http://www.petexpertise.com/dog-safety/breezeguard-safety-screens-for-car-windows.html> Not for trial use and loose dogs in car

Make sure that your vehicle's gas tank is full (especially if you are running the A/C for long periods of time) and that you have a **set of starter/jumper cables** (in case the battery dies from running your fan or ice chest on 12 V or the lights were on while the car doors are open).

Some people buy thermostat warning systems that alert them if the car temperature gets too high so they can get back to the car and remove their dog.

- <https://rvpetsafety.com/>
- <https://pupptech.com/>

Regardless of what you do, still check on your dog frequently and watch out for signs of overheating. A dog who is overheating will not enjoy the day and will not run well at an event or in any class.

Have fun and be safe!  
Linda and Don Grskovich