

# Weather Safety Tool

(To be used to assist in decision making)

1*	Small	Medium/Large	Large/Giant
95°	5	5	5
90°	5	5	5
85°	5	5	5
80°	4	4	4
75°	3	3	3
70°	2	2	3
65°	2	2	3
60°	1	1	2
55°	1	1	2
50°	1	1	1
45°	1	1	1
40°	2	1	1
35°	2	1	1
30°	2	2	1
25°	3	2	1
20°	3	3	2
15°	3	3	2
10°	3	3	2
5°	3	3	2
0°	4	3	2
-5°	4	3	3
-10°	4	4	3
-15°	5	4	4
-20°	5	4	4
-25°	5	5	5
-30°	5	5	5

### Instructions:

(1\*) Find the associated score based on temperature and animal size.

(2\*) Add or subtract points based on the weather conditions.

(3\*) Find the corresponding number and factor describing.

≤1	No Evidence of risk
2	Risk unlikely; evaluate the situation and if warranted, discuss concerns with the owner
3	Indicators of a potentially unsafe situation, depending on breed, time outdoors. Inform owner of risk.
4	Dangerous situation developing. Prompt intervention required to decrease risk (e.g. provide water, shade, shelter, or bring indoors). Warn owner of risk.
≥5	Potentially life-threatening risk present. Immediate intervention to decrease threat to the animal required.

In Warm or hot weather
Subtract 1 pt. if water is available Subtract 1 pt. if dog is in a shaded area protected from full sun Add 1 pt. if dog is brachycephalic Add 1 pt. if dog is obese Add 1 pt. if dog is < 6 months of age or elderly

In cool or cold weather:
Add 1 pt. if toy dog Add 2 pts. if dog out in rain / sleet Subtract 1 pt. if dog is a northern or heavy-coated breed Subtract 1 pt. if dog has good shelter and bedding available Subtract 1 pt. if dog has been acclimated to cold temperatures Subtract 1 pt. if dog is dressed with cold weather gear Add 1 pt. if dog is < 6 months of age or elderly

The Weather Safety Tool is intended to be a simple screening device for determining when neglect or cruelty may be present for unattended animals in inclement weather conditions. This does not apply to animals with access to properly functioning heating and cooling devices such as heaters or air conditioning units within appropriate shelter. The Weather Safety Tool is not intended to replace definitive assessment of any animal by a veterinarian, animal control, or law enforcement observations. A low Weather Safety Tool score does not preclude a diagnosis of abuse, neglect, or a dog requiring veterinary care upon more careful examination of an animal and its living situation, nor does a high Weather Safety Tool score affirm or guarantee abuse or neglect is present.