

## **HOT DOGS!**

I recently came across an article outlining the history of the Hot Dog. It told me that the sausage, the weiner, originated in Vienna and was taken to the USA, and sold on stalls there, by German immigrants. Originally these sausages were eaten using a white glove supplied by the vendor to prevent the purchaser burning their hands. However bread rolls were introduced when the gloves started disappearing as souvenirs. The Hot Dog was born!

The Hot Dog was brought to mind recently when 'Chilli' was presented at my surgery. Chilli, a 2 year old female Husky, had been for a walk and her owner had left her in the car while she called into the supermarket to purchase a magazine. Only planning on being a few moments, the owner left her drivers window open a little, told Chilli she would be back shortly and headed into the shop. Unfortunately for Chilli, the owner bumped into a long lost friend, and was kept chatting for 10 minutes. Now on a warm day, say 70F, temperatures in the car can reach 110F within 10 minutes and Chilli literally started to cook. Dogs can only cool themselves by panting or sweating through their paws so are relatively inefficient at cooling themselves compared with our selves. Once its temperature reaches 106F, the dog will suffer from dehydration, blood thickening and clotting, brain damage, organ failure and death. It will, and there is no easy way of putting this, cook until it dies.

Chilli was a lucky dog. When she arrived she was collapsed, panting rapidly with wide eyes and a bright red tongue. Her temperature was 107F. Cooling procedures were started immediately and treatment was given to prevent shock and organ failure. In many such cases this condition would have been fatal.

**PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE CHANCE. NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG IN THE CAR, EVEN IF IT ONLY SEEMS A LITTLE WARM OUTSIDE, EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS OPEN. YOUR DOG WILL PROBABLY DIE!**

In Chilli's case her owners have sworn never to leave her in the car again; to them, Chilli, was one Hot Dog too many!