



# Think Your Doghouse provides Interior Shade for Your Dog in the Summer Heat?

**Think Again!**

*Dogs Deserve Better Area Rep Melody Whitworth on an experiment with doghouses and interior temperatures:*

“Plastic dog houses are sold by many prominent pet stores and small garden and feed stores alike. These very same plastic dog houses are also approved by most City, County, and State officials as ‘sufficient’ shelter from the elements for dogs that are left outside to endure extreme temperatures. Because these dog houses are sold by popular stores and approved by officials, a false sense of comfort and safety is given to the community. Caretakers and ‘owners’ of these dogs assume that if they have one of these dog houses in their yard, their dog has protection from the extreme elements such as the record setting temperatures that have covered our entire country this summer. To show how protected these dogs really are with these dog houses I decided to run a little experiment...

On August 5, 2010 I put a plastic dog house in the sun with a temperature gauge in it. I left for work and came home at noon to check the temperature. The actual air temperature according to the Columbia, Missouri Weather Website was 94 degrees. *The temperature in the dog house? 112 degrees at 12:10 in the afternoon!*”

Please, bring pets into the home and into the air conditioning to allow them some relief from the extreme heat and humidity. Dogs can die in as little as 20 minutes from being exposed to such extremes, especially with no water. If anyone has a dog house as the only means of protection from the continued heat wave, please consider the consequences and the danger you are putting your dog in. If you have neighbors or anyone you know that is putting their dog at risk, print this picture and give them the facts. Many dogs are dying on chains, in pens, and even in fenced yards due to the extreme heat, humidity and severe heat indexes. Don't let your dog or any dog in your community suffer such preventable discomfort and even death. For help, visit the site at <http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org>.

