

#NoHotPaws

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND COLORING CONTEST FOR KIDS.

KITCHENER WATERLOO STRATFORD PERTH, ONTARIO: The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) reminds pet owners to avoid leaving pets inside vehicles as the weather warms up with a #NoHotPaws awareness campaign and contests that will run all summer long.

“Every year, as the weather starts warming up, our Animal Services Officers frequently respond to calls from concerned community members about dogs left in vehicles.” said Kathrin Delutis, Executive Director at HSKWSP. “Unfortunately, our officers do not have the authority to remove pets from a vehicle, unless a police officer or a Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) officer is also present. The goal of our #NoHotPaws campaign is to include the entire community to keep raising awareness about this topic, and this year we are even involving kids.”

“It’s never too early to start learning about pet safety and becoming a responsible pet owner.” said Kathleen McCaughey, Manager, Community Programs at HSKWSP. “Through our partnerships with the local school boards, we’ve incorporated pet heat safety education into our school presentations and entries from the kids coloring contest, that is currently running, will be posted on our social media to continuously keep reminding the public how dangerous leaving a pet in a car really is.”

#NoHotPaws kids coloring contest

The coloring contest is based on the premise that a car is similar to a glass mason jar left out in the hot sun. It can be as much as 20° degrees hotter inside the car, than it is outside. Kids under the age of 12 are invited to draw a picture that represents how they think a pet feels in a hot vehicle. The mason jar coloring page can be downloaded on the [#NoHotPaws campaign landing page](#). Contest runs until June 30th, 2021. Three winners will be chosen randomly. The grand prize winner will receive a free week of [HSKWSP virtual summer camp](#). Two other winners will receive a “Summer Heat Pet Kit” including a travel water bottle and other prizes to keep their pet cool.

All appropriate coloring contest entries will be posted on HSKWSP social media and on the campaign landing page. In July and August, adults will be invited to participate in a similar contest where they will be able to draw their interpretation of how a pet feels inside a hot vehicle, on an actual mason jar.

Even on fairly mild days, with the car parked in the shade and with the windows down, parked cars can quickly reach deadly temperatures. Dogs have a limited ability to sweat, so even a short time in a hot environment can be life-threatening. A dog’s normal body temperature is about 39°C and a body temperature of 41°C can be withstood only for a very short time before irreparable brain damage or even death can occur.

If you see a dog or other pet left in a vehicle, and it’s above 21°C outside, please contact 1-833-9ANIMAL or your local humane society.

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The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth is a leader in Animal Welfare in our communities, focusing on what is in the best interest of the pets. We do this through community education, advocacy, care, and compliance. We are a registered charity and receive no government funding for our programs. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001

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