



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

HOT CARS CAN KILL!

Don't let your pet become a victim

KITCHENER/STRATFORD, ONTARIO: As record high temperatures continue, the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) is responding to calls to aid animals in distress in hot cars.

Even on fairly mild days, with the car parked in the shade and with the windows down, parked cars can quickly reach deadly temperatures. Animals, especially dogs and cats, 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 temperature of 41°C can be withstood only for a very short time before irreparable brain damage or even death can occur.

"Leaving your pet unattended in a vehicle is not only one of the most irresponsible things that a pet owner can do, it's also illegal," says Kathrin Delutis, Executive Director. "Pet owners are subject to fines and charges under The Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act and under local bylaws."

If a dog is showing signs of heat stroke (excessive panting/drooling, is listless or unconscious), getting prompt veterinary medical treatment is vital. You can assist by wetting the fur immediately with lukewarm-cool water (do not use cold water), placing the pet in the shade and offering drinking water.

If you see a dog or other pet left in a vehicle in distress, please contact your local animal services provider, humane society (if they look after animal services in that area), Provincial Animal Welfare Services or police.

The Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society can be reached at 519-745-5615 and services Kitchener, Waterloo, Township of Wilmot, Woolwich and North Dumfries.

The Stratford Perth Humane Society can be reached at 519-273-6600 and services all of Stratford, Perth, Township of Zorra and the Town of St. Marys.

For more information on the initiatives of the Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth, please visit kwsphumane.ca.

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We are leaders in animal welfare in our communities and committed to promoting the human-animal bond, while focusing on the responsible treatment of animals through education, collaboration, compliance, advocacy and care. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001

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