



Pet at Risk: Extreme Heat Notice

11878 PA 85, Kittanning, PA 16201 724-548-4520 | www.orphansofthestorm-pa.org

Humane Police Officer O'Donnell, phone 724-954-9515, email HumaneOfficerAC@gmail.com

Case #: _____

Date: _____

Make/model of car: _____

License: _____

Description of animal(s): _____

- Warning, or
- Notice is to inform you that the above animal was removed and taken to Orphans of the Storm for its safety.

Pets at risk: Pets' normal body temperature is higher than humans, and humidity of just 35% can slow or shut down their ability to evaporate moisture and control their body temperature. On a 72-degree day, a car's internal temperature can heat up to 116 degrees within an hour. On an 80-degree day, a car's internal temperature can shoot up to a sweltering 99 degrees in just 10 minutes. Lowering the window has little effect on a car's temperature.

Signs of heatstroke include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor, collapse. Symptoms can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea, and vomit along with an elevated body temperature over 104 degrees.

The Motor Vehicle Extreme Heat Protection Act (MVEHPA) empowers law enforcement to make decisions and act on behalf of animals left unattended in vehicles to prevent the needless suffering/ death of dogs and cats. This law empowers law enforcement to make decisions on behalf of an animal in a parked vehicle by:

- Allowing a police officer, humane officer, animal control officer or other public safety professionals to remove a dog or cat from an unattended motor vehicle if they believe the dog or cat is in imminent danger or harm after a reasonable search for the operator of the vehicle,
- Protecting a police officer, humane officer, or public safety professional who removes a dog or cat from an unattended vehicle from liability for any damages,
- Requiring that an officer who removes a dog or cat from an unattended vehicle must leave a conspicuous note for the owner stating the officer's information and the information for where to pick up the pet.

Penalties: The MVEHPA prohibits, and defines as neglect, the confinement of a dog or cat in an unattended motor vehicle in a manner that would endanger the health and well-being of the animal. PA Cruelty to Animals statutes* penalties for neglect range from a summary offense of up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$750 fine, to an aggravated felony of the third degree of up to seven (7) years in jail and/or a \$15,000 fine.

Notes/Comments: _____

Humane Police Officer

Date