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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animals Left in Hot Cars: Arrests Will be Made

The Heat is On! Keep Pets Safe this Summer

Downey, Calif SEAACA, the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority, is asking pet owners to take no risks when travelling with pets this summer.

“Some people think they can take a chance ‘for a few minutes,’ and leave a pet in their parked vehicle,” says Capt. Aaron Reyes, Director of Operations for SEAACA, “but all it takes on a typical Southern California summer day for that animal to die *is* a few minutes. Whatever the temperature is outside, you can easily add 20-30 degrees to the interior of a vehicle, even with windows rolled down.”

In summer SEAACA receives an emergency call almost every other day for animals in distress inside vehicles. Last June, a Rottweiler died a prolonged death in her owner’s car in Norwalk when they forgot to take her out. She was found an hour later on the floorboard in a state of shock, succumbing to heat stroke on the sidewalk five minutes later. The owner was arrested and charged with felony animal cruelty.

Other close calls that SEAACA officers responded to include a terrier left in a car in the Knott’s Berry Farm parking lot while the family enjoyed themselves. Contacted by passers-by concerned about the panting dog, SEAACA officers arrived just in time to meet the teenage son who had been sent to check on the dog. The officers made sure the dog was removed to cool, and ordered his parents to meet at the car where a warning was issued.

Another family ate breakfast at a Montebello restaurant while their Yorkie heated up and began to panic inside their car. Again, a concerned citizen called SEAACA and officers arrived in 10 critical minutes. They prepared to rescue the dog from the car interior which then measured 110 degrees. Seeing officers at their car, the family came running out. The dog was removed and safely recovered.

The Heat is On! Keep Pets Safe this Summer cont'd

Even for animals that do not succumb to their overheated enclosures, their owners face legal action, embarrassment, and the heart-sickening knowledge they endangered their pets. "Laws are in place to protect pets from negligent owners," Reyes said.

This summer SEAACA officers will impound animals left in hot vehicles and showing signs of distress. Arrests will be made. Convicted pet owners can face jail time, fines and/or probation.

Anyone seeing an animal left in a vehicle on a warm day should call SEAACA at (562) 803-3301, or in urgent cases, dial 911.

www.seaaca.org

