



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp  
District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 15, 2016

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ISSUES WARNING TO DRIVERS: 'DOGS TAG ALONG' WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR CAR**

FRESNO, CALIF. – As temperatures reach triple-digits in Fresno County, Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp and members of the Animal Cruelty Unit are issuing this warning to Fresno County residents to remember to keep their dogs out of hot cars when running errands.

Leaving a dog or other pet in a car with these high temperatures is an overwhelming risk for heat stroke and possible death.

A few important points about leaving dogs in cars:

- It is illegal in California to leave a dog unattended in a hot car, especially during extreme heat. (PC 597.7)
- Dogs do not have sweat glands and are unable to cool themselves through sweating, leaving them at higher risk for heat stroke in hot environments.
- While many drivers may crack their windows open and leave their pets in the car, [a study in the journal \*Pediatrics\*](#) found that cars reached the same temperature regardless of whether windows were open or closed.

The Animal Cruelty unit is providing the attached graphics to law enforcement agencies across Fresno County to raise awareness of heatstroke risk for dogs riding along with their owners this summer.

The District Attorney's office recommends that citizens who spot an unattended dog in a car dial 9-1-1 before attempting to rescue it.

“All summer, we plan on reminding our neighbors that you should either leave your dogs at home or have them tag along when you make a stop while running errands,” Smittcamp said. “Leaving your pets in your hot car – even for five minutes – can take you from the parking lot to a courtroom.”

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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