

# DON'T LEAVE ME IN YOUR CAR!



**IT IS AGAINST THE LAW IN ALEXANDRIA** to leave an animal in your parked car in temperatures of **70° and above**. That's because in just minutes, your car can become as hot as an oven, even with the windows cracked or when parked in the shade. In one hour, the temperature inside a car on a 72° day can rocket to 116°, with most of the temperature increase occurring in the first 15 minutes. On an 85° day, the temperature inside your car can soar to 120° in just 30 minutes. Dogs left in hot cars can suffer illness, organ damage, brain damage or even death in the time it takes to make a quick trip inside a store or restaurant.

**Individuals who witness  
animals being left in parked cars  
in temperatures over 70° and/or  
see an animal in distress should call  
Alexandria Animal Services:  
(703) 746-4774**

**Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**  
4101 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-746-4774 | 703-746-4775 FAX  
**AlexandriaAnimals.org**



**SEC. 5-7-58**  
**CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS**  
**IN VEHICLES PROHIBITED**

**(a)** Any person who confines an animal in an unattended, enclosed vehicle where the outside temperature is 70° Fahrenheit or greater, and the interior of the vehicle is not provided with conditioned air to maintain an internal temperature of 80° Fahrenheit or less, shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

**(b)** Any person who confines an animal in an unattended, enclosed vehicle so as to cause the animal to suffer from heat stress as diagnosed by a license veterinarian, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Animal Services officer or other officer shall have the authority to remove any animal found in an enclosed vehicle that appears to be suffering from heat stress. The animal shall be provided immediate veterinary care. The animal owner or custodian shall be responsible for all expenses incurred during the removal of the animal or its subsequent treatment and impoundment.

**(c)** In the event that the person responsible for the violation cannot be ascertained, the registered owner of the vehicle, as required by Chapter 6 of Title 46.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, shall constitute in evidence a prima facie presumption that such registered owner was the person who committed the violation. (Ord. No. 4741, 11/12/11, Sec. 1)