



**Virginia Animal Control Association
P.O. Box 20462
Roanoke, VA 24018**

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For immediate release

Virginia Animal Control Association urges owners to leave their pets home in hot weather

The Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) is urging pet owners to leave their pets at home in hot weather. Pets left in hot vehicles are at risk for hyperthermia (overheating). It only takes about 10 minutes on an 85-degree day for the inside of your car to reach 102 degrees – even when the windows have been left open an inch or two. Within 30 minutes, a car's interior can reach 120 degrees. When the temperature is a pleasant 70 degrees, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter than the air outside. Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun.

It is against the law to leave a pet unattended in a parked vehicle in a manner that endangers the health or safety of the animal. An animal cruelty conviction could result in a jail sentence and/or a fine.

If you suspect animal neglect or cruelty, please call your local animal control agency as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, please call 911.