



## PETS IN HOT CARS: 5 THINGS TO KNOW

### **THE PROBLEM**

Every year, hundreds of animals suffer - and may die - in Los Angeles County from being left in hot vehicles. Even when temperatures are in the low 70s and the windows are left slightly open, a vehicle can heat up by an average of 40 degrees within an hour.

### **THE LAW**

In California, Penal Code section 597.7 makes it a **CRIME** to leave an animal unattended in a vehicle under any condition that could cause harm to the animal.

### **NO EXCUSES**

- **Opening the window slightly** will do little to prevent an animal from suffering or dying.
- **Parking in the shade** will not prevent the heat from becoming intolerable or deadly.
- **Leaving the vehicle for only a few minutes** is unacceptable.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

If you see an animal in a vehicle ***do not ignore it.*** **CALL FOR ASSISTANCE.**

- **If the animal is in distress, call 911.**
- **If the animal does not appear to be in distress, call the local animal control agency.**

When reporting this crime, authorities will want to know:

- Where is the vehicle located (row, space number, level, etc.)?
- Are windows rolled up? Down? "Cracked"?
- Is the vehicle in direct sun?
- When did you notice the animal in the vehicle?
- What signs led you to believe the animal is in distress?

### **ENTERING A VEHICLE**

Penal Code section 597.7 states that a peace officer, humane officer or animal control officer is authorized to take all steps necessary to remove an animal from a vehicle. Members of the public may not legally enter the vehicle – even to save a pet's life. If a vehicle door is unlocked, you may open the door to allow in some air. If the animal is able to drink, offer it water. Notify law enforcement if the animal drank water; this information will be passed along to a veterinarian.