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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wheat Ridge Police Department Issues Reminder About Dogs Left in Cars During Extreme Temperatures

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. June 26, 2018 -- During the summer months, the Wheat Ridge Police Department Community Services Unit responds to numerous reports of animals left unattended in parked vehicles.

The rise in summer temperatures can quickly put pets at risk for serious illness, or even death, especially on a day that doesn't seem that hot. Studies have also shown that cracking the windows makes no difference and has very little impact on the temperature increase inside a vehicle. Each year, the American Veterinary Medical Association reports that hundreds of pets perish from heat related illnesses due to being left in parked cars.

The temperature inside a vehicle can increase almost 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and can surge almost 30 degrees in less than 20 minutes. At 60 minutes, the temperature inside your vehicle can be more than 40 degrees higher than the outside temperature. Even on a 70 degree day, that's 110 degrees inside a car!

"We've already seen extreme summer temperatures this week so please, if you love them, leave them at home where they'll be safe and happily waiting for you to return," stated Lucas Hunt, Wheat Ridge Police Department patrol commander.

A law was passed last year by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper offering immunity to "Good Samaritans" who break a car window to save a dog they believe is in danger of imminent death. The law has specific steps to take that include 1) making an effort to find the car's owner before breaking a window, 2) then calling the police, and 3) staying with the animal until officers arrive. Call local law enforcement if a dog appears to be in distress inside a car on a hot day.

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