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## PRESS RELEASE

### 5 MINUTES TOO LATE!

As we approach summer the Animal Welfare League of Qld is reminding the community that leaving a dog in a hot car, even for a few minutes, can be fatal.

Spokeswoman from the Animal Welfare League Kim Assim said it can take less than 5 minutes for a dog to die when left in a car on a hot day.

"The temperature in a car skyrockets after only a few minutes, and after 6 minutes can soar to around 55 degrees," she said.

"It is a misconception that leaving windows partly down or parking in the shade will keep your dog cool," she said.

"It is cruel and dogs suffer terribly and risk death if left in a hot car," she said.

"Dogs are more susceptible to overheating than humans as they don't have sweat glands so they pant to cool themselves down," she said.

"In particular the short-nosed breeds such as Bull Dogs, Staffy's and Boxers, suffer the most as they have short airways and take longer to cool down," she said.

"While we can turn on the air-conditioning, open the window or simply get out of the car to cool down, dogs can't escape the heat when left alone," she said.

"Even on mild days leaving dogs in cars can be fatal as it only takes a few minutes for the temperature to dramatically increase", she said.

"During December the AWL Veterinary Clinic usually treats dogs for heatstroke from being left in cars or from over-exercising in the middle of the day," she said.

"Dogs will often collapse and as a result of heatstroke and have to be treated for other symptomatic problems that can lead to permanent trauma or death," she said.

"People think they are doing the right thing by taking their dogs out in the car but quick stop offs such as to buy milk or bread, can be fatal," she said.

"Despite best intentions, distractions do happen such as running into someone you know, which means the dog is left in the car longer than first anticipated," she said.

"We are asking owners to think of their dogs this summer and leave them at home rather than in the car, especially if you are going anywhere dogs aren't allowed,"



she said.

“Leaving dogs in cars even for a few minute shouldn’t be an option,” she said.

“If anyone sees a dog left in a car at a shopping centre, it’s a good idea to ask the centre to page the driver of the vehicle,” she said.

“It could mean the difference between life and death.”

The AWL Qld cares for 10,000 of stray and unwanted cats and dogs every year on the Gold Coast and surrounding areas, with an average of 7500 animals returned to their owners or rehomed each year.

**For further information please call Kim Assim on (07) 5509 9030.**

