CHILD AND ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUPS ISSUE WARNING AFTER TOTS ARE LEFT IN CAR

Clearwater, Fla. — Following news reports that a man left two children, ages 3 and 4, in his car while he visited a Clearwater strip club Sunday night, PETA and KidsandCars.org are issuing a joint warning: No one, including kids, cats, dogs, or any other animals, should ever be left alone in a car, even if—as in this case—the temperatures outside seem moderate. One mistake can cost lives and also change lives forever. The groups point out that many children and animals left alone in cars aren't as lucky as the two children who were removed from the car in Clearwater unharmed. PETA and KidsandCars.org formed their partnership last September in an effort to stop the rash of deaths that occur every summer when children and animals are left in hot cars. Based in Leawood, Kan., KidsandCars.org is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing injuries and deaths of children involved in nontraffic, vehicle-related events, including being left alone in a hot car.

For years, PETA has issued hot-weather alerts and urged television and radio stations to broadcast summer advisories telling the public why animals must never be left in parked cars. Now, PETA's "hot car" alerts also include information on why children need protection from the heat, and KidsandCars.org now includes information in its news releases about the importance of leaving animals at home during warm weather.

According to KidsandCars.org, hyperthermia (a rapid and often fatal rise in body temperature) in parked cars is the third-leading cause of death in nontraffic-related incidents involving children and vehicles. For its part, PETA receives alarming reports of dogs who succumb to heatstroke within minutes when owners are delayed in shopping malls and fail to realize how little time it takes for a car interior to heat up. In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside a car can spike 19 degrees, and it can go up 29 degrees in 20 minutes. So on a 78-degree day, the temperature inside a car can climb to 97 degrees in just 10 minutes.
"This incident should be taken as a warning that the most vulnerable beings among us—children and animals—need and deserve our protection," says PETA Vice President Daphna Nachminovitch. "A lifesaving rule of thumb is never to leave a child or animal in a parked car, especially on hot—or even just warm—days. Always leave dogs and cats at home during a heat wave."

For more information, please visit PETA.org and KidsandCars.org or click here to visit PETA’s blog.

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