

For Immediate Release:

August 28, 2009

Contact:

Virginia Fort 757-213-8703; VirginiaF@peta.org

Shakira Croce 212-929-2515; ShakiraC@peta.org

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

**No One—Child or Animal—Should Be Left Unattended in a Car, Say
PETA and KidsandCars.org**

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.



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

HEADQUARTERS
501 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23510
TEL 757-622-PETA
FAX 757-628-0785

MediaInfo@PETA.org
P E T A . o r g

**NEWS
RELEASE**

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

"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.

#



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

HEADQUARTERS
501 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23510
TEL 757-622-PETA
FAX 757-628-0785

MediaInfo@PETA.org
P E T A . o r g

**NEWS
RELEASE**

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS