



For Immediate Release  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
ADELAIDE, SA

## HEAT CAN KILL

*Animals at risk as the mercury climbs*

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With the state preparing for a run of extreme hot weather this week, RSPCA South Australia is urging people to protect animals from the heat.

“Six minutes in a hot car is all it can take for a dog to die,” RSPCA South Australia Executive Manager of Shelter Operations Kerriann Campbell said.

Last summer RSPCA South Australia attended 65 reports of dogs in hot cars. Even if the windows are down, temperatures inside a car can quickly rise.

“There is no reason to leave pets in vehicles in high temperatures or at any time.

“We have also treated dogs who have suffered burnt paws because they have been left in ute trays,” Ms Campbell said.

Animal owners can face fines of up to \$50,000 and four years jail if found guilty of causing serious harm to an animal, which could include leaving an animal locked in a hot car.

Ms Campbell warned livestock and working animals are similarly at risk in the heat.

“Livestock animals also benefit from shade and shelter.

“They have to adjust their internal temperature when standing in the sun for hours at a time.”

To treat an animal who has suffered heat stress, Ms Campbell said it’s important to lower body temperature before contacting a vet for future assistance.

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If any members of the public see an animal in distress, they can contact RSPCA South Australia's 24 hour cruelty hotline on 1300 477 722.

***Keeping animals safe in hot weather***

- Don't take pets away from home unless absolutely necessary.
- Try to move pets inside. If that is not possible, ensure they have ample water and shelter.
- Small animals (rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, birds) are highly susceptible to heat stress and need to be protected.
- Don't exercise animals during the middle of the day. This will tire them and they can overheat quickly.
- Frozen treats are a great way to keep animals hydrated and cool.

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