

**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON**



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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When the Temperature Rises – It’s “TOO HOT FOR SPOT”

ARL Boston Kicks Off Public Campaign reminding Pet Owners of New Law protecting animals from Unhealthy Heat Exposure

As June turns to July, temperatures continue to rise, as do heat-associated risks for animals. As part of the Animal Rescue League of Boston’s (ARL) public education program, a targeted campaign reminding pet owners of the dangers of leaving their animals in a hot vehicle was launched this week.

"The Animal Rescue League of Boston does incredible work across the state to protect animals and I was pleased to sign legislation to prevent the mistreatment of animals last year," said **Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker**. "As summer begins, our administration supports their efforts to continue the “Too Hot for Spot” campaign to remind people to avoid leaving pets in cars or confined spaces.”

“**Too Hot for Spot**”, ads will appear across the Commonwealth with assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation as well as local partners IBEW 103.

“The IBEW 103 is a community-focused organization, and we are proud to be partners with the Animal Rescue League of Boston to help deliver this important community message,” said **Lou Antonellis, Business Manager for IBEW 103**.

As temperatures rise, so do concerns about animal safety. Even with temperatures below 80 degrees, the threat for heat stroke still exists. Remember, pets don’t sweat like humans do, making them unable to cool their bodies efficiently in the heat.

“A car can heat up incredibly quickly, and this is important and potentially life-saving information that every pet owner should know,” said **ARL President Mary Nee**. “The Animal Rescue League of Boston is proud to have been a driving force behind this new law and will continue to advocate for even stronger animal protection laws in Massachusetts.”

Keep your pet safe and healthy by following these important guidelines:

- ❑ **Prevention is always your best bet.** Whenever possible, leave your pet at home in a low humidity and temperature-controlled room.
- ❑ **If your pet must be outdoors,** find a shady spot with ample air flow to prevent overheating.
- ❑ **Hydration.** This is key, so keep a bowl of cold water accessible at all times.
- ❑ **Exercise wisely.** Limit exercise to the morning or evening hours when temperatures are at their coolest.
- ❑ **Never leave your pet alone in a parked car.** When the outside temperature is just 80 degrees, inside a parked car, the temperature can rise to more than 100 degrees in a matter of minutes, leaving your pet susceptible to deadly heat stroke.

With the passage of S. 2369 in November, 2016, it is now illegal in Massachusetts to confine any animal in a vehicle when extreme heat or cold could be dangerous to the health and well-being of the animal. The law also allows Animal Control Officers, law enforcement officer and firefighters the legal right to enter a vehicle to retrieve an animal in danger. Regular citizens can also act to save an animal in danger, however only after making a reasonable effort to locate the owner, and contacting first responders. Pet owners can be cited up to \$500 and face possible forfeiture of the animal.

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2016, ARL served more than 17,800 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government funding and rely solely on the generosity of individuals to support programs and services that help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at www.arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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