

**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE  
of BOSTON**



**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 16, 2018

**Governor Baker and MSP Join ARL for Too Hot for Spot  
Demonstration**

*ARL's fifth annual public awareness campaign*

This past Friday, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) was joined by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, legislators, and the Massachusetts State Police Major Richard Ball to once again remind pet owners of the dangers of heat stroke for pets, particularly in hot cars.

It is the fifth year ARL has imparted this important summer pet safety message throughout the Commonwealth. Along with social media, flyers, car magnets, media partnerships, and digital billboards throughout the state thanks to billboard space generously donated by MassDOT and IBEW Local 103.

The event took place in front of the Massachusetts State House, and included a demonstration with ARL's stuffed dog "Spot" to show how quickly the inside of a car can heat up – even with seemingly mild temperatures and the windows cracked.

It was a perfect summer day with temperatures hovering around 80 degrees. In just 10 minutes the temperature inside ARL's Rescue Services vehicle rose to well over 120 degrees. It's important to remember that animals do not sweat like humans do, and cannot efficiently regulate their body temperature in an environment such as a hot car.

Massachusetts General Law **Ch. 140, Section 174f** was signed by Governor Baker in 2016, and prohibits confining an animal "in a motor vehicle in a manner that could reasonably be expected to threaten the health of the animal due to exposure to extreme or cold". The law also allows first

responders and ordinary citizens to enter a vehicle to remove an animal if it's deemed that its life is in imminent danger.

Despite having a law on the books in Massachusetts, unfortunately Animal Control Officers and law enforcement are still seeing a high number of incidents where animals are left in hot vehicle and enduring needless suffering.

ARL's "Too Hot for Spot" campaign is focused on reminding the public that prevention is always the best solution. When temperatures rise, ARL urges pet owners to leave their animals at home.

### **Quotes from Today's Event**

#### **Mary Nee, President of the Animal Rescue League of Boston**

**"This campaign is about prevention," said Mary Nee, President of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. "While we do have a law that allows first responders and ordinary citizens to act when an animal is in danger inside a hot vehicle; we don't want it to get to that point. ARL urges pet owners to leave their animals home when the temperatures rise."**

#### **Governor Charlie Baker**

**"While our hope is that no one ever has to rescue an animal from a hot car, we understand those situations unfortunately do arise and lives can depend on a quick response," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Educating the public on the dangers of leaving pets in hot cars and the measures they can take to rescue an animal in need is a key prevention tool, and I thank the ARL for once again launching this important campaign."**

#### **Major Richard Ball, Massachusetts State Police Commander of Troop H**

**"The Massachusetts State Police and all law enforcement agencies consider animal cruelty and neglect to be serious crimes and assist animal rights organizations in investigating such crimes aggressively," said Major Richard Ball, commander of MSP Troop H. "We urge the public to be familiar with the law that allows them to take action to rescue an animal confined in a hot car, and to tell law enforcement about any type of animal abuse they see or suspect. If you see something, say something."**

#### **Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford)**

**"Our pets provide limitless love and companionship, and we must do everything to protect them from neglectful owners who time and time again have shown a cruel disregard for their welfare."**

#### **Representative Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead)**

**“The ‘dog days’ of summer are the perfect time to keep the safety of our pets in mind. I hope this law never has to be used, but everyone should know the dangers of a hot car and what to do if you see an animal in danger. Prevention is best so I’m grateful to the Animal Rescue League of Boston for raising awareness.”**

**For photos from the event click on the link below:**

**<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fi8trylr5fnf7de/AACtdlWdHwONhZnF5ASoFVesa?dl=0>**

**For further background information click on the link below:**

**<https://www.arlboston.org/protection/too-hot-for-spot/>**

**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 2017, ARL served more than 18,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive no government grants or public 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](http://www.arlboston.org); and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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