



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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Leah Treat  
Director  
Portland Bureau of Transportation

Dear Director Treat,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters, including thousands across Oregon, to ask you to join our efforts to prevent the deaths of children and animals in hot cars and in response to reports that a woman broke into a hot car to save a dog left inside late last month. The parking receipt showed that the dog's guardians had paid for two more hours. Many children and dogs die every year when their guardians leave them locked in vehicles while they run into the store for a minute or forget that they are in the car. By posting our "[warning](#)" parking meter decals on Portland meter machines, we can help prevent such tragedies by providing drivers with a vital reminder that it takes only a few minutes for a child or animal to die of heatstroke.

According to reports PETA receives about panicked animals who have suffered and died in agony inside vehicles during warm weather, at least 22 dogs have died in hot cars this year already—including two in Oregon—and summer has only just started! Since 1998, there have been more than 700 documented cases of children dying in hot cars. On a 78-degree day, the temperature inside a parked car can soar to well over 100 degrees in just minutes, even with the windows slightly open. Children's bodies warm up three to five times faster than adults' bodies do, and dogs can cool themselves only by sweating through their paw pads and panting, so these vulnerable members of our families often succumb to heatstroke in just minutes, resulting in brain damage or death.

We hope you will join our efforts to prevent more animals and children from dying in hot cars. We would be happy to send you our decals to place on parking meters on busy streets and near shopping centers. These can help prevent motorists from making a heartbreaking fatal mistake while also encouraging passersby on the street to keep a vigilant eye out for individuals left inside unattended vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk  
President

Affiliates:

- PETA Foundation (U.K.)
- PETA Asia-Pacific
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands