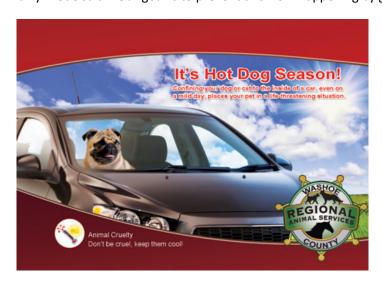


Community Partnership Connection

It's Hot Dog Season! WC Regional Animal Services is Launching New Summer Safety Campaign

Confining your dog or cat to the inside of a car, even on a mild day, places a pet in a life-threatening situation. An alarming increase in "Dog in Hot Vehicle" reports over last spring compelled Washoe County Regional Animal Services to create a summer "Hot Dog" campaign to remind pet owners that leaving a pet in an enclosed vehicle, even for a short time, can be a deadly oversight. Temperatures inside a closed automobile can easily rise 20 degrees or warmer than outside temperatures which could prove deadly to a pet.

Nevada Revised Statute 574.195 is aimed at the prevention of cruelty to animals and makes it illegal for a person to "allow a cat or dog to remain unattended in a parked or standing motor vehicle during a period of extreme heat or cold or in any other manner that endangers the health or safety of the cat or dog." In May of 2012, dispatchers received 68 high priority calls for dogs left in an enclosed vehicle during hot temperatures. This is over five times the number reported during May of 2011. So far there have been no pet fatalities as a result of pets being left in hot cars, and Washoe County Regional Animal Services staff would like to keep it that way. "When it gets to the point where an animal's well-being is threatened, Animal Control Officers will take the necessary steps, as obligated by the law, to save an endangered animal by removing it from the vehicle. Even if they have to break a window to do it," WCRAS Director Barry Brode said. "Our goal is to prevent this from happening by getting this important message out to the public now."



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A DISTRESSED ANIMAL LOCKED IN A HOT CAR:

Call Washoe County Regional Animal Services Dispatch Immediately at:

322-3647

The dispatch phone is answered from 7am to 10pm 7 days a week (including holidays)

For after-hour emergencies, please call 911

Emergency Family Preparedness Part 6 of 9:

Weather Related Extreme Heat

Risk of Heat Cramps, Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke

Extreme heat is more than an issue of discomfort. Heat forces the body into overdrive as it tries to stay cool through perspiration and evaporation. Most heat-related deaths are preventable if people are aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions can be taken to prevent a heat-related illness or death.

The elderly, the very young, and people with mental illness and chronic diseases are at highest risk. However, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. The effects of extreme heat can undermine physical well-being so slowly and subtly that the dangers aren't apparent until it's too late.

Temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature and last for several weeks are defined as extreme heat conditions.

Source: The Weather Channel and Washoe County Emergency Management - readywashoe.com

Suggestions to Protect Yourself and Others from Extreme Heat



- Stay indoors. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest level out of the sun.
- Drink plenty of water. People with medical conditions should consult their doctors before significantly increasing their water intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages or beverages that contain large amounts of sugarthese actually cause you to lose more body fluid.
- Dress in loose fitting, lightweight and light colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible.
- Wear a wide brimmed hat to protect the face and head.
- Avoid too much sunshine and use sunscreen with a high SPF rating.
- Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activities. Get plenty of rest and allow your natural "cooling system" to work.

Crime Lab's New Toxicology Supervisor Brings Experience and Passion To Her New Role



A thirteen-year veteran of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division has been promoted to Supervising Criminalist of Toxicology. Karyl Brown, who worked on the County Crime Lab's first toxicology case in May of 1999, will now oversee the lab's toxicology services.

"Karyl brings experience, vision and passionate dedication to her new role," Forensic Science Division Director Renee Romero said. "She has already shown a keen ability to see the bigger picture in her decision making."

Brown helped to set up the Toxicology Section when the Sheriff's Forensic Science Division was first formed in 1999. The Toxicology Section analyzes samples of body fluids to determine the presence, and amount, of drugs, alcohol or poisons.

"What I like most about coming to work every day is the realization that we are providing a unique and valuable service to the community," Brown said. "Our analysis establishes facts that will help to prosecute the guilty and to protect the innocent."

After 10 years of service as a Toxicologist, she spent the past two years as the Forensic Science Division's Quality Assurance Manager.

Brown said her experience as Quality Assurance Manager will play a valuable part in her new role because it gave her the opportunity to work closely with all areas of the Forensic Science Division while honing her quality control skills.

"We adhere to a rigorous system of strict procedures, policies, criteria, and checks and balances," Brown said. "And it's all worth it when you consider that the public safety efforts of 14 Nevada counties rely on our ability to provide accurate information."

Home Safety Tips for Summer Travelers

- An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar, so make sure you do your best to have your home look occupied while you are away. Find a trusted friend or neighbor to watch your house. Give them your contact information in case they need to get a hold of you.
- Never broadcast your travel plans on a community email group, blog, Facebook, or other social networking site and remember if you check-in on foursquare or Facebook, everyone knows you aren't home!
- Install good locks on the doors and windows and use them
- Engrave your valuables with your phone number.
- Never leave a house key hidden outside of your home.
 If it is hidden in a pot, under the mat, beneath a rock or in a fake rock, someone else may find it and enter your home while you are away.
- Stop all deliveries or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn and maintain the yard while you are away. This keeps your home looking lived in.
- Place your inside lights and a radio on timers so that they go on and off periodically in the evening hours.
- Hide your garbage cans out of sight. If your garbage cans are empty when everyone else's is full, it is a sign that you are not at home.
- Turn the ringer on your telephone down low or off so that people outside of your home will not hear the phone ringing go unanswered.
- Be sure to close and lock the garage door too. When
 possible, have a friend or family member park a car in
 your driveway occasionally so that it looks like someone
 is still at home.
- Leave your blinds and drapes in their normal position on second floor windows (closed on ground level so no one can look inside and view an empty home).
- Remember, when you return home if it looks like someone has entered your home - Do not go inside! Instead use a cell phone, go to a neighbor's house or other safe location to contact the police. Let the police check the home first.



Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Community Relations

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Regional Animal Services Offers 4th of July Holiday Safety Tips for Pet Owners



Photo Courtesy of "For the Love of the Dog"

Fourth of July fireworks are no fun for dogs. Historically, Washoe County Regional Animal Services is flooded with calls from pet owners searching for dogs that became lost while trying to flee from the loud noise of the fireworks. On July 4 and 5 of 2011, Regional Animal Services retrieved 73 lost dogs over a 24 hour period.

"Most lost dog reports involve dogs that were left out in the yard during the fireworks," Regional Animal Services Manager Barry Brode said. "But we have had reports of dogs taking more extreme measures, such as jumping through open windows, in their effort to escape the noise. These dogs are often found many miles from home and we've heard stories of dogs hiding under decks or sheds for days after the fireworks."

Regional Animal Services offers the following safety tips to pet owners for the Fourth of July holiday:

- Before the fireworks start, bring and keep your dog inside.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Leave a radio, television, fan, or air conditioner on as these will help to lower the noise from outside.
- If you know your dog does experience extreme anxieties to loud noises, it may be worthwhile to contact your veterinarian to see what recommendations they have.
- The best way for everyone to get the most enjoyment from a firework display, is to leave your pets at home.

Regional Animal Services staff also encourages dog owners to make sure all pets have identification tags and microchips just in case they do get lost. This will expedite getting pets and their families reunited.

"Our goal is to help all members of your family enjoy a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration," Brode said.