

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A PET LEFT ALONE IN A VEHICLE?

Take down the car's make, model, and license plate and notify the managers or security guards of nearby businesses so they can make an announcement to find the owners.

If you can't find the owner quickly, call your local non-emergency law enforcement number. In Alachua County, that is 352.955.1818. Wait by the car until law enforcement arrives. **However, if the animal is non-responsive or in distress, call 9-1-1 and attempt to rescue the animal.**

## FLORIDA GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

Florida's Good Samaritan Law ([F.S.S. 768.139](#)) guarantees civil immunity for any person who enters a motor vehicle (by force or otherwise) to rescue a vulnerable person or animal in distress. The rescuer must first determine there is no other way to enter the vehicle without assistance and have a good faith reasonable belief that the person or animal is in danger of imminent harm. The rescuer must alert 9-1-1, use only necessary force to enter the vehicle, and remain with the person or animal close to the vehicle until law enforcement arrives.

## CONTACT Us:

### 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

### *ACSO Important Phone Numbers*

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4193



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

## *Sheriff Chad D. Scott*

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627  
2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641  
<https://www.acso.us>



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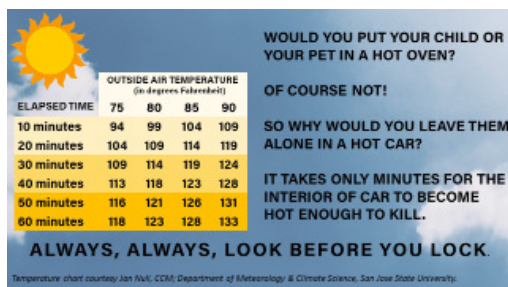


ACSO 2025

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Look BEFORE You Look



Did you know that on a mild day, the temperature inside a parked car can easily reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit? The graphic above illustrates how quickly the interior of a car's temperature can rise .

Now, can you imagine how hot a car's interior gets on an average 95 degree (or more) summer day in Florida? At 95 degrees, the interior of a car will reach nearly 140 degrees within an hour.

**PARKING IN THE SHADE OR LEAVING A WINDOW CRACKED OR DOWN DOES NOTHING TO LOWER THE MAX TEMPERATURE REACHED IN A HOT CAR.**

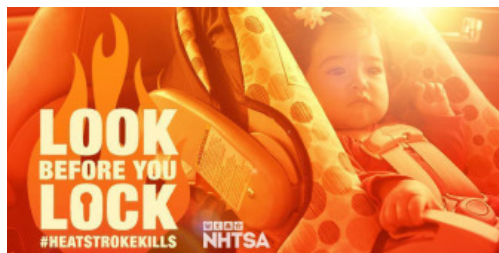
## KIDS IN HOT CARS

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than 950 children have died in hot cars since 1998.

Most parents believe that it can never happen to them, but an average of 38 families find out the hard way that it can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, education level, or socioeconomic status.

The majority of hot car deaths occur because someone forgets a child in the car. Nearly 75% of the fatalities were children under the age of two years who were buckled into their car seats in the vehicle's rear seat.

Parents and caregivers most often forget to drop off the child at daycare or preschool. Other deaths occur because a child climbs into a car and becomes trapped.



A child's body temperature rises approximately three times faster than an adult's. Fifteen minutes is all it takes before life-threatening brain or kidney damage occurs. **Death occurs when a child's body temperature reaches 107 degrees.**

Every death of a child in a hot car is preventable. Learn to [Look Before You Lock.](#)

- ⇒ Establish a routine to always check the back seat when you park.
- ⇒ Place something in the back seat as a reminder to open the back door every time you park - cell phone, purse, employee badge, your left shoe, etc.
- ⇒ Keep a stuffed toy in the baby's car seat. Move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when a baby is in the car.
- ⇒ Arrange for child care providers to call you if the child does not arrive on time.
- ⇒ Keep your vehicle locked at all times, even in the garage or driveway, to prevent children from getting in and becoming trapped.
- ⇒ For more tips on how to protect your child, please visit <https://www.kidsandcars.org/how-kids-get-hurt/>

[heat-stroke/](#). You will find statistics, stories, and PSA videos.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE A CHILD LEFT ALONE IN A VEHICLE?

If the child appears to be okay, try to find the parents or caregiver. Most stores/public places have some sort of paging or P.A. system.

If the child is non-responsive or appears to be in distress, **call 9-1-1** and then attempt to get into the car - even if you have to break a window to do it. You will be protected from civil liability for damages by Florida's Good Samaritan Law.

## PETS IN HOT CARS

You may be tempted to take your pets with you in the car while you run errands, but please leave your companion animals at home. Do not think that because you will be gone "just a moment" that your furbaby will be safe while you're away from the car. That is how hundreds of pets die every year!

Pets left even briefly in a hot car suffer heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or death because they are unable to perspire like humans. Instead, they must dispel heat through their paw pads, or by panting.

Symptoms of heat distress are excessive panting, difficulty breathing, drooling, weakness, seizures, diarrhea, and vomiting. A pet can suffer irreversible brain damage or death in as little as six minutes. The risk is greater for brachycephalic pets like Pugs or Persians, or for elderly or overweight animals.