

City of Hampton
Animal Control
Administrative Guidelines

Title: <p style="text-align:center">Animals in Unattended Vehicles</p>	Guideline Number: <p style="text-align:center">OP-104</p>
References:	Date Issued: <p style="text-align:center">May 2006</p>

I. Purpose

To establish a basic policy regarding the handling of complaints of animals involuntarily confined to vehicles during periods of inclement weather.

II. Policy

Animal Control Officers will respond to complaints of animals confined in unattended vehicles during periods of hot weather, extreme cold weather, when the animal is showing signs of distress, or during any other time when it is reasonable to believe that an environmental condition exists inside a vehicle that may constitute an immediate threat to the life or health of the animal.

III. Procedure

- A. Once on scene of an animal left unattended in a vehicle, the officer must make a careful objective evaluation of the situation, taking into account all known circumstances.
 - 1. Conditions which will be considered by the officer on scene include but are not limited to the condition of the animal, the probable environmental condition inside the vehicle and the officer's ability to immediately locate the owner or custodian of the vehicle.
 - 2. Signs of heat stress include heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, dizziness, vomiting and deep red or purple tongue.
- B. When it is obvious that an animal is in danger of dying or sustaining serious injury, it shall be removed from the vehicle as soon as possible. Entry into the vehicle shall be expeditious but will be made in a manner as to minimize damage to the property. Time permitting, the officer shall contact the immediate supervisor and ask for police assistance. Always check the status of the doors prior to entering by alternate means.
- C. Try to photograph the animal in its condition prior to removal. Upon removal of the animal from the vehicle, a notice of impoundment shall be left in a conspicuous place on or about the vehicle. The animal that is removed shall be taken immediately to a veterinary hospital for examination and treatment.
- D. An IBR must be completed on any animal removed as well as photographs of the vehicle and animal.
- E. Prior to leaving the scene, the officer will do his/her best to secure the vehicle if forcible entry was made.

Authorized by: 	Revision Date: <p style="text-align:center">September 15, 2011</p>
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