

Sir Paul Stephenson
Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

29 June 2011

Via e-mail: paul.stephenson@met.police.uk

Dear Sir Paul,

We hope this letter finds you and everyone at the Metropolitan Police Department well. Our hearts go out to you and your officers in light of the recent tragic deaths of Chay and Milly, the dogs who were left in a hot vehicle last week for nearly an hour. We know that news reports are not always accurate, and not knowing the full circumstances, we thought we would provide you with information about temperature sensory systems in the hope that it will be of benefit to you. We understand that this is a difficult time for the Met, and our thoughts are with you.

Ideally, of course, dogs would not be left unattended in a vehicle, and we hope that your current policies require that officers only leave K-9s unattended when there is truly no other choice. For those times when officers must step away, would you – if you have not already – **please make the modest investment of purchasing and installing an independently powered temperature-monitoring and heat-alert system** such as those manufactured by AceK9 and Ray Allen? Depending on the model, these systems sound an alarm, page the officer or attempt to start the engine, roll down a window or pop open the door if the temperature begins to reach a dangerous level. You can find out more about them at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XecE5YEvV4>. It is a worthwhile investment for any vehicle that might transport a K-9 at some point, whether the vehicle is owned by an agency or an officer. Like any safety measure, staffers must be trained in their use, the systems must be properly maintained and they must never be used as a substitute for common sense.

As I'm sure you know, dogs can only cool themselves by panting and sweating through their footpads, so heat builds up and the animals can quickly overheat. On a 25-degree day, the temperature inside a car parked in the shade is approximately 32 degrees, and a car parked in the sun can quickly reach 70 degrees. For a dog, death from heatstroke can occur *in just 15 minutes*. This brief window necessitates policies that provide supplemental safety measures.



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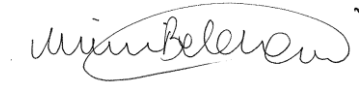
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Please let us know how we can help. We look forward to hearing from you, and, again, we extend our sincere sympathy to your officers.

Thank you for your time and for everything that you do to keep our communities safe.

Very sincerely yours,



Mimi Bekhechi
PETA Foundation



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