

12 November 2019

Pets and hot cars a deadly combination: RACQ

As temperatures soar, disturbing new RACQ data has revealed an average of two pets are rescued from locked cars every day in Queensland.

RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross said the Club's Roadside Assistance patrols had rescued 859 animals from hot cars in the past 12 months and it was concerning in the lead up to summer.

"It's simply too dangerous to leave your four-legged friend in the car, particularly in spring and summer, when temperatures can climb quickly," Ms Ross said.

"Contrary to popular belief, parking in the shade and with your windows down doesn't make much difference to the temperature inside your car.

"Animals can't cool themselves in intense heat so it's up to owners to behave responsibly and protect their fur babies."

Ms Ross said the State Government's recent announcement it would consider upping fines and even jail time under revised animal cruelty laws, was an important step forward.

"It shouldn't be necessary to threaten owners with heavy fines for what should be common sense but, if helps protect innocent animals from harm, then that's good news," she said.

"It's pretty simple: if you wouldn't leave your child in the car then don't leave your pet either."

Location	Number of calls for pets locked in car
Brisbane	260
Sunshine Coast	101
Gold Coast	86
Darling Downs	51
Wide Bay	50
Townsville	31
Rockhampton-Gladstone	25
Cairns	23
Mackay	12

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Lucinda Ross 0447 196 258; Media Advisor Andrew van der Beek 0429 207 014.

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.6 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, finance, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.