

Transport of Companion Animals

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support the unsafe transport of companion animals in vehicles.

Rationale

- Pet owners should consider leaving their pets at home; if this is not possible, animals should be restricted from movement inside the vehicle. The Society supports the use of comfortable, well-ventilated crates and animal seatbelts to ensure secure and humane transportation.
- There are many risks to an animal's health and safety if transported without proper confinement or restriction from movement within the vehicle. This applies to the inside of the passenger compartment, as well as an open area such as a truck box. Risks include:
 - falling out of or being thrown from the vehicle during sudden stops;
 - jumping from the vehicle into traffic;
 - suffering injuries from wind, insects and flying debris; and
 - strangulation or dragging behind the vehicle if tethered in an open vehicle.
- Animals that are able to move around within a moving vehicle may distract the driver, which could result in an accident.
- Animals left in unattended vehicles may be easily taunted, stolen, or harmed by extreme environmental conditions.
- Animals left in unattended vehicles can be exposed to temperature extremes, particularly in Alberta. Pets left in vehicles can suffer heat stroke in hot weather and freezing in cold weather; both put the animal at risk for injury or even death.

References

1. British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Transporting Live Animals." BC SPCA position statement, Vancouver, 1997.
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Animals in transit." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.