



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2007

Contact: Tom Christensen (619) 515-6535

WOULD YOU PUT YOUR CHILD IN AN OVEN?

County Officials Warn of Dangers of Leaving Children, Pets in Hot Vehicles

WHAT: Would you put your child or pet in an oven? A vehicle left in the sun can quickly become an "oven" for a young child or pet left unattended.

County officials will demonstrate how quickly the temperature can rise inside a vehicle and remind residents of the dangers of hyperthermia.

WHO: **Supervisor Pam Slater-Price**, Third District
Dr. Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer
Mary Harris, Director, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services
Dawn Danielson, Director, County of San Diego Animal Services
Parents and babies

WHEN: **WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007 AT 11:00 A.M.**

WHERE: **Health & Human Services Agency-Front Parking Lot**
1700 Pacific Highway

WHY: As the scorching summer heat approaches, it's paramount that parents and pet owners be mindful of the serious dangers a hot car poses, and bystanders must be vigilant in involving the proper authorities.

Suffocating temperatures inside cars can rise in minutes to levels that cause heat exhaustion, which can lead to heat stroke, severe brain, liver and kidney damage, and even death.

Seventy-seven children have died in the U.S. this year because they were left unattended in a vehicle. Of those, 14 died from vehicular hyperthermia, including two in California.

Vehicular hyperthermia killed 334 children in the last 10 years.

VISUALS: **Maps of child deaths, posters with children and pets in ovens, dogs, a big thermometer, and a baby model demonstrating how quickly the temperature can rise inside a vehicle. Parents and babies.**

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
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