On a warm day, the temperature inside a parked car can reach as high as 140 degrees in as little as two hours. On average, 37 children and hundreds of pets die of heatstroke each year after being left alone in cars.

**It’s Up to You**
Following simple safety tips can help protect children and pets in and around vehicles.

- Never leave a child or pet unattended in a vehicle, even for a minute.
- Keep a cell phone, briefcase, laptop, or anything essential to your daily routine beside your child in the car.
- Make “look before you leave” a routine whenever you get out of the car.
- Always lock your car, even in the garage, and make sure children don’t have access to keys or remote entry devices. Teach children that cars are never to be used as play areas.
- Have a plan that your childcare provider will call you if your child does not show up.
- If a child is missing, always check the pool and then the car, including the trunk.
- If you see a child or pet unattended in a hot vehicle, call 9-1-1.

**California Vehicle Code 15620**
A parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for a child who is six years of age or younger may not leave that child inside a motor vehicle without being subject to the supervision of a person who is 12 years of age or older, under either of the following circumstances:

- Where there are conditions that present a significant risk to the child’s health or safety.
- When the vehicle’s engine is running or the vehicle’s keys are in the ignition, or both.

**California Penal Code 597.7**
It is illegal in California to leave an animal in an unattended motor vehicle under conditions that endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to heat, cold, lack of adequate ventilation, lack of food or water, or other circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause suffering, disability, or death to the animal.