

NEWS

Dog owners urged not to keep pets in hot cars

Rise in number of calls over dogs in hot cars

By **JAMIE CALLAGHAN**
Reporter
jamie.callaghan@jpress.co.uk

The Scottish SPCA has seen an 80 per cent increase in calls to its animal welfare helpline over concerns about dogs in hot cars.

The charity has issued a plea to dog owners to leave their pets at home if they could be left in the car for any length of time.

The plea follows an incident in Fife at the end of June, when police had to free a dog overheating in a car parked in

Leuchars.

Officers were forced to smash the window to free the dog, which they described as “boiling”, and the owner was later charged with causing an animal unnecessary suffering.

SSPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: “We’re very concerned at the number of reports we’re receiving about dogs being left inside cars during the hot weather.”

“Owners need to understand that it’s completely unacceptable to leave a dog in a vehicle in these searing temperatures, even for a short period of time with the windows

down. In this kind of heat, just don’t risk it.

“When left at home, owners should ensure their dogs have access to fresh water at all times and that there is adequate ventilation in the room. If dogs are being kept outdoors, they must have an area of shelter where they can escape the heat of the sun.”

Deputy superintendent Peter Fleming added: “In this hot weather we would advise the public to ensure their pets stay hydrated, cool and a fresh supply of water should always be available.

“Sometimes just keeping a window open at home or



PETER DEVLIN

Dog owners are urged not to keep their pets in cars.

putting on a fan to let the air circulate the room will help provide a cool temperature for them.

“Please don’t forget about wild animals too, who will

benefit from bowls of water left in the garden.”

The SSPCA also warned that it is better to walk dogs early in the morning or late at night, as pavements can get

too hot for dog’s paws.

The organisation also states that cooling bandanas and access to shade are easy ways of keeping dogs cool during the hot weather.

Independent review of proposed RBS branch closures in Biggar and Douglas

**JOHNSTON
CARMICHAEL**

Johnston Carmichael has been appointed to independently review the proposed closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branches in Biggar and Douglas. If you are likely to be affected by the closures we would like to hear your views by 5pm on 14 August 2018.

Johnston Carmichael, the largest independent firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers in Scotland, has been appointed by the Royal Bank of Scotland plc (“RBS”) to independently review the proposed closure of ten branches in Beauly, Biggar, Castlebay, Comrie, Douglas in Lanarkshire, Gretna, Inveraray, Kyle, Melrose and Tongue.

We will be reviewing the usage of each branch on its own merits and then providing RBS with a recommendation on whether we consider each branch should remain open or be closed.

As part of our independent review, we would welcome the views of anyone who uses the RBS branches in Biggar and Douglas and who would be directly affected by their closure. Specifically, we would like to hear how often you currently use the branches and what you use them for. We would also like to hear if you are aware of alternative ways to bank if the branches were to close and whether those alternatives would reasonably fulfil your everyday banking needs.

You can share your views with us at any time by:

- Writing to us at The RBS Review Team, Johnston Carmichael LLP, 29 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YL; or
- Completing a short online questionnaire available at www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview

You can also talk to us in person at the branches – in Douglas on Tuesday 31 July 2018 or Biggar on Wednesday 1 August 2018:

- Members of our review team will be visiting the RBS branches in Douglas on Tuesday 31 July and Biggar on Wednesday 1 August and would welcome the opportunity to meet customers and users of each branch to discuss their banking needs on a one to one basis. Our team members will be at each branch during normal branch opening times and will be looking to meet with as many people as possible. Appointments of 20 minutes will be made available.
- We strongly advise you to book an appointment to avoid extended waiting times. **To book an appointment, please telephone 01224 259353** between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Please note that the deadline for the submission of your views is 5pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018 and all comments that you share about how you use the branches will be kept confidential. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Johnston Carmichael RBS Review Team