

**MEMORANDUM TO:** All Chiefs of Police and  
Commissioner Thomas Carrique  
Chairs, Police Services Boards

**FROM:** Richard Stubbings  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

**SUBJECT:** **Collection of Occurrence Data Related to the Animals  
Left in Motor Vehicles**

<b>DATE OF ISSUE:</b>	<b>May 25, 2021</b>
<b>DATE OF REISSUE:</b>	<b>May 27, 2021</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>For Action</b>
<b>RETENTION:</b>	<b>June 4, 2021</b>
<b>INDEX NO.:</b>	<b>21-0058</b>
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Normal</b>

Effective January 1, 2020, the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act* (PAWS Act) came into force creating a new provincial animal welfare enforcement model. The Ministry of the Solicitor General (“ministry”) established the Animal Welfare Services (AWS) branch, with a Chief Animal Welfare Inspector who has in turn appointed animal welfare inspectors across the province. Police officers and First Nations Constables have authority under section 60 of the PAWS Act to exercise the powers of an animal welfare inspector in relation to animals in distress and critical distress, and the investigation of offences.

As noted in All Chiefs Memo 20-0098, regarding pets in hot cars, the public are advised to call 911 if they see an animal in a hot car and are concerned that the animal’s life is in immediate danger. The PAWS Act currently authorizes police, First Nations Constables, and animal welfare inspectors to enter motor vehicles to remove animals in critical distress.

The ministry is seeking the voluntary submission of occurrence data related to police services’ responses to animals left in motor vehicles. The ministry will use this information to gain insight on the frequency and nature of occurrences involving animals left in motor vehicles, including the outcomes of such occurrences. The information will help inform work to enhance the response to animals in critical distress in motor vehicles.

The data being requested includes all record-level data related to occurrences involving animals left in motor vehicles. The ministry is asking that police services submit the requested data in the attached template spreadsheet. This is a one-time collection of data, capturing information from the past three calendar years (2018, 2019 and 2020). The spreadsheet includes technical instructions to support the completion of this information. We would appreciate if you could provide your submission by **Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

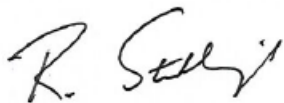
Reporting should cover each year requested, with the year starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>, inclusive. For further details, please refer to the "Instructions" tab within the attached template.

Please email the completed template to Suganya Suriyakumaran at [suganya.suriyakumaran@ontario.ca](mailto:suganya.suriyakumaran@ontario.ca). If you have any questions regarding the submission requirements, or any technical questions, please contact Suganya.

Please note that the collection, retention, and disclosure of information will be carried out in accordance with all applicable legislation.

The ministry greatly appreciates your support as we continue to explore ways to best safeguard animal welfare in Ontario

Sincerely,



Richard Stubbings  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Division

Attachment

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.  
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety