



# Georgia Legal Professionals for Animals, Inc.

July - September 2006

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## Dear Newsletter Subscriber

Welcome to the latest edition of GLPA's newsletter. It's been a busy three months for our volunteers. Our fundraiser, which we held at the Red Brick Brewery in Atlanta along with PAWS Atlanta and Ahimsa House, was a huge success (as well as a lot of fun!). The Georgia Bar Association sponsored our third annual "How to Prosecute Animal Cruelty From Start to Finish." This educational program trains attorneys, police, veterinarians, and animal control officers on how to most effectively work together as a team to ensure prosecution in an animal cruelty case. The seminar was, as usual, well attended, and we thank the many individuals and businesses who graciously made a monetary donation that sponsored an officer's tuition. A list of those sponsors is on our website.

In this issue, we hope to highlight the all-too-real dangers of leaving dogs and other pets locked in the car on summer days. We commend City of Alpharetta Police Officer Sam Gris for taking seriously a call about a puppy locked in a hot car; please read the story of Puppy Gris in this issue for more details. We've also got information for you about how you can help an animal that's injured along the roadside, as well as what you can do to help chained dogs in your community. Last, we hope you enjoy the pictures of our fundraiser.

As always, please consider joining us! We need volunteers from the legal field as well as concerned citizens and animal advocates.

Enjoy the issue!

For the animals,  
Georgia Legal Professionals for Animals, Inc.

## The Story of Puppy Gris

Hi! My name is Puppy Gris, and am I cute or WHAT??!! This is my story. I was part of an unwanted litter of puppies and when I was just three weeks old, I was given away as a "party favor" at a child's birthday bash. The people who took me decided to see a movie on the way home, and they left me in the car during that time. It was the end of May, and the temperature was around 90 degrees that day. The people left the windows cracked, but as you know, the inside of a car gets very hot, very fast. The heavy panting I was doing was a futile effort to keep myself cool. I could have suffered from kidney or brain damage or

at worst, died from heat stroke. Thankfully, some employees of the movie theatre heard my cries and called the police, and Officer Sam Gris rushed to my rescue! He unlocked the car and got me out. My heartbeat was very rapid and faint. Officer Gris wrapped me in wet towels and put me in the police car with the air conditioner turned on high. Eventually I came around a little. When Officer Gris filed his report later with the DA's office, GLPA volunteer and Fulton County Animal Cruelty Prosecutor Laura Janssen realized that heat stroke

in dogs can show up as much as 24 hours later, and that I could possibly still be in danger. She contacted Officer Gris and together they found me and got me to Dr. Merck's clinic. The people who had taken me from the birthday party relinquished custody of me, so I'm now up for adoption. I'm about six weeks old and have the cutest curly-Q tail you ever saw!

So that's my story. Officer Gris says that a lot of people leave their dogs in cars on hot summer days with the windows cracked. Please don't do this! Tell all your friends about the dangers of heat stroke, which dogs can die from literally in minutes. I'm lucky I didn't die. Thanks to good people like Officer Gris, Laura Janssen and Dr. Merck, my story has a happy ending! If you're interested in adopting me, please call 770.552.7877.



*My hero, Officer Gris, and me.*



*How can you resist me? I'm adorable!*

See our website at [www.georgialpa.org](http://www.georgialpa.org).

## Why Dogs, Cars, and Summer Don't Mix

By Kelly Stone

A recent experiment revealed that the internal temperature of a car that's been sitting in the sun all day can reach almost 200 degrees by 2 p.m. Yet every day we see dogs sitting alone in hot cars while their owners are inside a store on an errand. This practice leads to documented deaths of dogs every year in the US because people think it's safe if it's only for a few minutes. Here's why it's not:

Glass is an insulator, which means the windows trap the heat of the sun but don't let it out. Heat begins accumulating immediately and the temperature soars. The bigger your car, the more glass it has, the hotter it gets.

In 93 degree weather with a window cracked one inch, the temperature inside a car can reach 125 degrees in 20 minutes and 140 degrees in 40 minutes.

In 85 degree weather, the temperature inside a car with windows cracked reaches 102 degrees within 10 minutes. Within 20 minutes, it can reach 120 degrees.

Even in mild 72 degree weather, a car's internal temperature can reach 100 degrees in 10 minutes, and 116 degrees within one hour.

A dog's normal body temperature is about 101-102 degrees — a dog whose body temperature rises to 106 degrees can suffer irreparable brain damage or death.

Leaving dogs in cars is such a problem in the U.S. that the car company Nissan is supporting a campaign called My Dog is Cool to help educate the public about the dangers of this practice. You can help by downloading free flyers at [www.mydogiscool.com](http://www.mydogiscool.com) and distributing them to family, friends, and co-workers.

*(Source: Animal Protection Institute)*

## How to Help an Injured Animal on the Roadside

By Charleen Micheles

All too often, when people encounter an injured animal, they refuse to stop and assist because they feel frightened or helpless. If we see an animal that's been hurt along the road, would we know how to step up and help? Knowing how to approach and handle a wounded animal could mean the difference between life and death for that animal.

We all have first aid kits in our homes for minor emergencies and should prepare by keeping one in our car as well, if only to give assistance and comfort to the animal before taking it to a vet. Here is a list of supplies that one should keep in their car for such emergencies:

- 1.) blanket and some towels
- 2.) gallon bottle of water, changed weekly for freshness, and a dish
- 3.) several cans of dog/cat food, opener, paper plates
- 4.) a leash that fits any size animal, like a show lead
- 5.) a pair of heavy gloves and rubber gloves
- 6.) several rolls of gauze, tape, scissors, cotton swabs, hydrogen peroxide
- 7.) a carrier for cats
- 8.) a muzzle for larger dogs that might bite out of pain/fear. For smaller animals, gauze wrap to use around the face.
- 9.) vet and emergency 24-hour animal assistance numbers

Remember when approaching an injured animal to walk slowly and speak softly to them. They are usually more frightened than you are and

probably in pain. Once they are calm, put on the muzzle or gauze wrap. If the injuries do not seem too bad, use the blanket as a stretcher. If you are alone, wrap the animal and place it in the car as gently as possible. If the injuries look severe, or if the animal seems like it might bite, call 911 and wait with the animal until help arrives. Never put yourself, other people, or the animal in harm's way when trying to give help. If all you can do is call and notify authorities that an animal has been injured by the road, that's fine.

Our animal friends give us love, devotion, and make our world a better place all the way around. We are their guardians — they are our responsibility.

***About the Author:** Charleen Micheles worked for many years in a veterinary clinic/kennel in Illinois. She has cared for birds, rabbits, kittens, owls, skunks, and deer. She works as an editor and writer in Nevada.*

## GLPA Fundraiser a Huge Success

GLPA, PAWS Atlanta, and Ahimsa House teamed up for a night of fun, festivities, and fundraising in May at the Red Brick Brewery in Atlanta. About 175 people were in attendance for free food, beer, and great giveaways like books, CDs, Braves tickets, free grooming coupons, free spay/neuter coupons, complimentary spa visits, and much more. Heidi Pollyea from Dogs Deserve Better ([www.dogsdeservebetter.com](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.com)) provided wonderful musical entertainment along with her band. A total of approximately \$9,000 was raised and will go to further each program's respective animal welfare campaigns.



*Heidi Pollyea and her band entertained at the GLPA fundraiser.*



*GLPAers Sperry Wilder and James West.*

## No One Deserves to Spend Life on a Chain

By Ambuja Rosen

A 13-year-old girl was padlocked to a tree for two days. The courts rescued her, put her in foster care, and charged her mom with harassment and assault. But almost everywhere, when animals are chained up even for their entire lives, no one rescues them because it's perfectly legal to treat them that way.

Dogs are the most common victim. "For dogs, prolonged chaining is emotional abuse," says psychologist Randall Lockwood of the ASPCA. These pack animals feel insecure, lonely, frustrated and bored. Some pace back and forth, or suck or chew on themselves. Many become mean: Lockwood says in a survey of 109 fatal dog attacks, 18 percent involved chained dogs.

Tethering can put animals in physical danger, too. It's common for children to throw rocks, sticks or baseballs at chained dogs. Some dogs jump fences and die from hanging themselves.

Many animals get tangled in their tethers and break their limbs or strangle to death. Some freeze to death or die of heat exhaustion when they can't reach shelter or water. Some get chained up young, and as they grow, the chains become deeply embedded in their flesh.

Know of any long-time animal chainers? Offer to help them fence their yard cheaply or set up an indoor pen. Offer to walk the dog (ride the horse, etc.), or to find another home for the animal. You can also ask animal control to educate the chainers.

Spread the word about tethering through animal clubs, trainers, veterinarians and others. Most importantly, work to get a tethering law if your community doesn't have one.

There's no federal law, and state laws are inadequate. For example, Georgia's law doesn't even require minimal space for animals, let alone limit the amount they can be tethered.

So about 80 cities and counties have stepped in and restricted home tethering. Many limit the hours of chaining. Some do even more — for example, they say the tether can only weigh so much and that it must be a minimal length.

In Georgia, to my knowledge, tethering is restricted only in two of 159 counties: Chatham and DeKalb. (See [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com) for county-by-county ordinances). If you'd like to change your county or city law, here are some tips:

- Find someone in government who will work with you as a liaison.
- Don't give up even though initially your government may resist.
- Don't act over-emotional — for example, angry. Just keep presenting the facts about chaining, to clear away government's clouds of ignorance.
- Are dog bites and nuisance barking a problem in your area? Emphasize how chained dogs are more likely to bite and bark.
- Use the media.
- Write your ideal ordinance. Make sure it doesn't duplicate other local animal laws, and that it's compatible with local housing codes. Ask for what you want, not for what you think you can get, but be willing to compromise.
- While you're asking for a tethering ordinance, try getting other laws, too. Examples: Dogs tethered in pick-up trucks; animals rescued from hot cars; minimal housing standards.

The 13-year-old girl was fortunate that someone cared enough to make a law to protect her. Since animals seem to suffer as much on a rope, we owe it to them not to keep them dangling anymore.

For more information, see [www.dogsdeservebetter.com](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.com) or [www.unchainyourdog.org](http://www.unchainyourdog.org).



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## Joining is easier than ever now

Joining GLPA has never been easier! Our annual dues are \$35, tax deductible, and you can now join online via PayPal. Please visit our website ([www.georgialpa.org](http://www.georgialpa.org)) for more information.



*This newsletter is dedicated  
in loving memory to Blue.  
1996 - 2006*

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