



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

MEMORANDUM

To: All Clubs
From: Event Operations
Date: July 9, 1999

We are all concerned about the dangers posed to dogs confined in vehicles at dog events. Especially when temperatures start to climb. In May 1997, the Events Committee of the AKC's Board of Directors approved a notice of "Waiver of Rights" which you may include in your premium list to help give your club the ability to rescue dogs from improperly ventilated vehicles. This Waiver has been effectively used by a number of clubs. You may also post the Waiver on your show grounds, and/or place it on flyers to hand out to those entering the show grounds.

Suggested wording is:

All persons attending this dog show/event, hereby waive any claim for damages against (club name) or its member, in the event a motor vehicle must be entered to rescue a dog from overheating or suffocation due to improper ventilation.

We suggest you check relevant state laws regarding the effectiveness of such a waiver. Many states have laws supporting potential action.

Enclosed is a master copy of a poster, which you may reproduce for your club's use. The second enclosure is a copy of a flyer to be given to participants and spectators to place on the dashboard of their cars if dogs are to be in the vehicles.

We wish to remind you that Section V, page 6 of the Dealing With Misconduct booklet states:

"When a dog is seriously injured or dies in connection with an event, the Event Committee must conduct a Preliminary Investigation to determine if negligence or willful conduct of an individual caused the injury or death." This section also requires a written report.

Increased education, publicity, and vigilance can prevent tragedies from occurring at dog events, and we hope the above information and the enclosures will be helpful to your club.

(Event Operations)