

PET DISTRESS

Heartbreaking figures put family fur babies in the firing line

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Disturbing numbers in pet deaths

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A LEADING pet crematorium operator has revealed at least one dog is being accidentally run over every week on the Gold Coast by its owner.

Tom Jorgensen, founder of Pet Angel Funerals, said since he set up the business in 2015, he and his staff had seen hundreds of distraught pet owners who had accidentally killed their furry friends.

“Every single week, we get someone who has backed over his or her own dog in the driveway, or accidentally run over the dog when coming home from work,” said Mr Jorgen-

sen.

“Dogs get excited and run out to see their owners. Often, the owners can’t see them - especially little dogs - and a pet gets run over.”

He said it was heartbreaking to witness, week after week, devastated owners going through this traumatic experience.

“It’s so distressing for all of us because these pet owners are not irresponsible,” Mr Jorgensen said. “The issue is that dogs just love being around cars and their owners. Sometimes, tragic accidents happen.”

Mr Jorgensen also warned pet owners not to leave pets in their cars and he hoped new

State Government legislation would help prevent this.

“I don’t want them to have to live with the severe consequences, regret and grief of losing their animals — all because of an ill-informed decision to leave their pets in hot cars,” he said.

His team recently cremated a family dog after the female owner discovered the pet had passed away on the floor of her car.

“When she locked her car and left it parked on the street for the day, she didn’t realise her pup had jumped into the car,” he said.