



## Media Release

15 January 2020

### DESIGNER DOGS AT RISK OF HEATSTROKE THIS SUMMER

As temperatures continue to soar, owners of 'designer dog' breeds are being warned to take precautionary measures to prevent their pets dying from heat stroke.

Pet Angel Funerals Founder Tom Jorgensen said there had been a noticeable increase in the number of Chihuahuas, Pugs, Shih Tzus, Bulldogs and Boston Terriers dying from heat stroke because these breeds are most susceptible to overheating.

"We want to remind pet owners that they cannot leave their pets in a car, even for a short amount of time. We are really concerned that pet owners, especially owners of these breeds of dogs, do not take this issue seriously enough," said Mr Jorgensen.

"Over the Summer months we definitely see an increase in cases where pets are brought in after tragically dying because of heat stroke and we want to try and put a stop to it now."

Senior Veterinarian Dr John Rigley of The Point Vet said it was common for dogs to experience heatstroke in Summer.

Certain dogs have been bred to have pushed-in noses and this often results in their inability to produce oxygen which leads to suffocation if they get heatstroke.

"It is also important to remember that dogs don't produce sweat in the same way as humans. As a result, when the temperature is hot, a dog will feel the effects of it much quicker than a human would as it cools down in a different way," he said.

To prevent heat stroke, Dr Rigley recommended pet owners put ice cubes in their pet's water dish and ensure their animals have plenty of shade. If pet owners start to notice that their pet is excessively panting, they should encourage evaporative air flow with a fan to help the pet cool off.

This warning to pet owners comes after two toddlers tragically died in Logan late last year after being left in a hot car for several hours.

**MEDIA NOTE:** For more information or to interview Tom Jorgensen, please contact Wings Public Relations Director Deanna Nott on 0422 504 540 or [deanna@wingspr.com.au](mailto:deanna@wingspr.com.au)

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### **PET ANGEL FUNERALS**

Pet Angel Funerals is a family-owned business dedicated to helping pet owners say goodbye to their beloved animals with grace and dignity. Founded in 2015, it is one of the largest and most-trusted pet cremation services in Queensland, guaranteeing all cremations are personalised and individual. State-of-the-art crematories and custom-built facilities allow Pet Angel Funerals to focus on offering affordable and compassionate pet cremation services that aim to make the difficult grieving process as painless as possible. To find more information on how Pet Angel Funerals can be of support, visit [www.petangel.com.au](http://www.petangel.com.au).