Dog Safety: A New Paradigm

2026 DPCA NATIONAL CONVENTION · A FOUNDING PREVIEW

Doberman Pinscher Safety Foundation

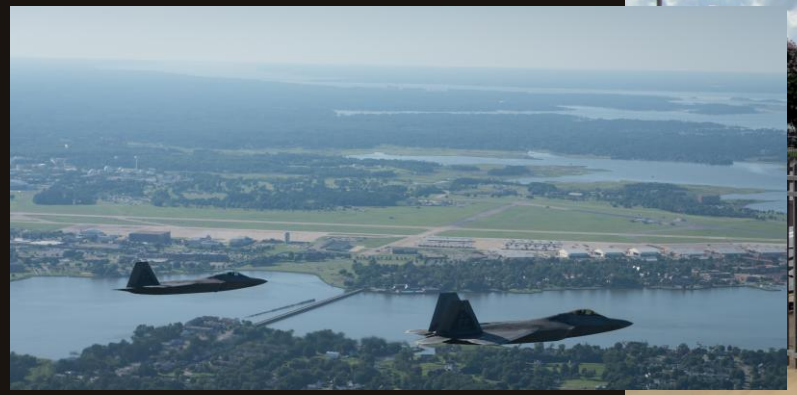
Doberman Pinscher Safety Foundation

DPSF

That no Doberman shall be harmed by a preventable cause at a show or performance event

Preventable harm at shows and performance events — heat injury, dogs forgotten in cars, cold injury — and the checklists, monitors, and systems that can stop it.

James Aldo Mirazita, MD, DABA

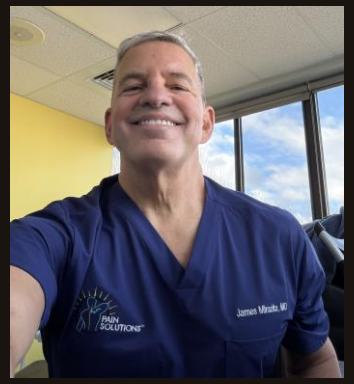




Doberman Pinscher Safety Foundation

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The Dog Show World has been stunned by multiple tragedies over the past year … And how many "Near Misses" have there been?

The sport of purebred dogs is dominated by:

· Independent enthusiasts
· Varying experience levels
· Competing interests
· Differing schools of thought on "how things should be"
· Loose guidelines from parent organizations
· *Laissez-faire* culture


TO-DO LIST
WORK
EMAILS
GROCERIES
CALL MOM
PAY BILLS
LAUNDRY
EVERYTHING?!
CALENDAR
RING RING RING!
EMAILS
37
TOO MUCH TO DO
DON'T FORGET!
COFFEE PLEASE
YOU GOT THIS
WHAT DAY IS IT?
FOCUS...?

Can a “System” be designed that can mitigate human error, improve safety “culture,” and teach dog enthusiasts best safety practices?

Aviation and anesthesiology slashed preventable harm ***by building a culture that includes:***

- **Systematic hazard identification**
- **Just-culture reporting**
- **Standardized checklists**
- **Continuous learning from near-misses rather than waiting for catastrophes**

The same approach at dog shows and performance events would let organizers, handlers, and clubs potentially “design out” heat stress, trauma, and other foreseeable risks instead of reacting after dogs are hurt.

Source: Adapted from APSF Mission, Vision and Values.

What has Aviation Safety Culture and Anesthesia Safety Culture taught us?

01

The Flight Safety Foundation (1945) and Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (1985)

FSF: “Share safety information freely, across companies and national borders, so the industry can prevent accidents instead of hiding them.” [ROD in a commercial airplane in 1945 was 1 in 180,000, now it is less than 1 in 14 million]
APSF: “That no patient shall be harmed by anesthesia.” [ROD from anesthesia in 1985 was about 1 in 10,000 and today is less than 1 in 1 million]

02

Both the FSF and APSF Advocate for Routine use of Checklists for Safety and *careful* Reporting of Incidents to Learn from the Past

Once attitudes change, a safety culture develops that moves focus away from blame and toward awareness and meaningful change toward improved safety standards

03

Once a Safety Culture Develops, Attitudes Change

No more, “I don’t need anyone to tell me what to do—I’ve been doing it this way for years!”

04

Once Safety Guidelines are Commonplace and Widely Distributed, Stakeholders “Normalize” Them and Wide Adoption Tends to Occur

Best practices are commonly adopted industry wide with individuals adopting best practices as a standard

05

“Standard Monitoring” Becomes Non-negotiable

There is a minimum set of operable instruments required for a flight to take off
There is core set of operating room monitors required or the surgery does not proceed

Do we need a new Doberman Pinscher Safety Foundation (DPSF)??

The new DPSF can easily be modeled after the APSF…and it can save dog lives!

- **Systematic hazard identification**
- **Just-culture reporting**
- **Standardized checklists**
- **Continuous learning from near-misses rather than waiting for catastrophes**

Source: Adapted from APSF Mission, Vision and Values.

The Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) changed a Field with Standards that had a Huge Impact

Independent

Founded 1985 as a nonprofit independent entity, not an American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) committee. Independence let it name accidents in public, learn from them, and write standards clinics and hospitals would adopt.

One vision

“That no one shall be harmed by anesthesia care.” Every grant, newsletter, and checklist was judged against that sentence.

Checklists

First-year work was monitoring standards and cognitive aids — not more lectures. Pre-anesthetic **checklists** and **standard monitoring** became the culture.

This is the product DPSF should copy:

· Checklists based on best practices
· Standard Monitoring with redundancy pre-planned

The result

$millions to hundreds of researchers with formal safety training introduced to Anesthesia residents and regular safety coursework now required to maintain board certification in Anesthesiology. **Anesthesia became the first specialty to “own” safety.**

Wouldn’t it be amazing if our breed stepped up … and “owned” dog safety and built a similar model that could be copied by any breed club, dog organization, or the AKC itself?

Source: APSF History; APSF on checklists and cognitive aids; APSF grant reports, 2025–26.



In Anesthesia there is a… Core Set of Standard Monitors— Every Case, Every Time

Let’s Take These Basic Safety Principles and Apply Them to the Dog World…What this DPSF preview will settle:

01 **The event-safety case**
Why heat, vehicles, and cold at shows and trials are a systems problem.

02 **What APSF teaches about checklists**
Independence, one vision, and standards that change a culture.

03 **Why a foundation — not another flyer**
How DPSF sits beside DPCA, chapters, and event committees.

04 **The first checklists and priorities**
Heat, vehicles, cold, and other preventable injuries at dog-sport events.

05 **Governance, roadmap, and the ask**
A working group, v1 checklists, and a safety booth at the next National.

The ring is not where most preventable harm happens. The parking lot is.

What is already true (Current State)

DPCA's National, Top 20, agility, obedience, and working events put hundreds of Dobermans on the same grounds, in the same heat, with the same crate-out-of-the-car habit. Clubs already post weather notices. AKC now requires a hearing when a dog is seriously injured or dies at an event.

What is still true (Current State)

Heatstroke's most common cause is a closed vehicle. Black coats absorb more sun. Short coats and low body fat lose heat fast when wet. Dogs get forgotten between classes. Currently there is no single checklist a show chair, handler, or novice can run the same way.

What APSF teaches us (Future State)

Anesthesiology did not add another pamphlet. It built an independent foundation whose first products were monitoring standards and checklists. **We copy that: one organizational owner (DPSF) for event safety, and tools people will actually use.**

July 2026

AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy

Fans, AC, and monitors do not, by themselves, make a vehicle safe. The policy is year-round. This National is the right room to turn a rule into a breed practice.

Source: AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy, July 2026; AKC on canine heatstroke; APSF History.

Copy the design. Change the setting.

APSF · 1985	DPSF · proposed
Independent of the American Society of Anesthesiologists	Independent of DPCA — partner to chapters and event committees
Vision: no one shall be harmed by anesthesia care	Vision: no Doberman harmed by a preventable cause at any event
Monitoring standards and pre-anesthetic checklists	Heat, vehicle, and cold checklists any owner or handler can run; redundant monitoring standards
Newsletter, consensus conference, partner recommendations	DPSF Brief, National consensus, club-ready event protocols compiled in a handbook
The patient on the table, and the team around it	The dog, the handler, “show neighbors, the show chair, the parking lot, the home

Recommendation: first DPSF product is a published Dog Event Safety Checklist (CRATERS) — designed for quick reference.

Source: APSF Mission and History; AKC event-safety policy updates, July 2026.

737 PRE-TAKEOFF

CHECKLIST • NG / MAX TRAINING AID

Complete approaching the holding point and again on lineup. Confirm against the operator FCOM / QRH.

C — CONFIGURATION (official Before Takeoff items)

- ☐ Flaps set to planned takeoff setting; leading-edge devices agree; flap indicator green light.
- ☐ Stabilizer trim set to takeoff units from the FMC / loadsheet and in the green band.
- ☐ Speedbrake lever full forward (down detent); SPEEDBRAKES EXTENDED light out.
- ☐ Takeoff configuration warning silent when advancing thrust (no config horn).

P — PERFORMANCE & AUTOMATION

- ☐ V1 / VR / V2 confirmed against FMC TAKEOFF REF, MCP V2, and takeoff data card.
- ☐ MCP set: V2, runway heading (or LNAV armed), initial altitude; both F/Ds ON; A/T ARM.
- ☐ Autobrake RTO. N1 bugs / assumed temperature / reduced or full takeoff thrust match plan.
- ☐ Rudder and aileron trim free and zero. Flight controls checked (full and free).

S — SYSTEMS

- ☐ Engine start switches CONT for takeoff. Probe heat ON. Window heat ON.
- ☐ Engine / wing anti-ice as required for OAT, visible moisture, and contamination.
- ☐ Packs AUTO (or per company bleed/pack takeoff procedure). Isolation valve AUTO.
- ☐ Center tank pumps ON only if center fuel is at or above the FCOM minimum (typically 2,300 kg / 5,000 lb); otherwise OFF for takeoff.
- ☐ Recall checked; no unexpected master caution lights. Cabin altitude / pressurization set.

L — LIGHTS, XPDR & RUNWAY

- ☐ Takeoff clearance received. Correct runway, intersection, and lining-up confirmation.
- ☐ Strobe ON. Landing lights ON. Runway turnoff lights as required. Taxi light OFF on lineup.
- ☐ Transponder TA/RA (TCAS), correct code, TFC as required. Weather radar / terrain as needed.

C — CREW, CABIN & BRIEF

- ☐ Cabin secure / flight attendants notified for takeoff. Flight deck door closed and locked.
- ☐ Takeoff briefing reviewed: thrust, V-speeds, flap setting, rejected takeoff, engine-out, SID.
- ☐ Engine oil temperature rising / warm-up complete (company minimum, typically ≥2 minutes).
- ☐ Ground equipment clear. Windows locked. Seats, belts, harnesses, and shoulder straps secured.

R — ROLL (cleared for takeoff)

- ☐ Align on centerline. Hold brakes. Advance to ~40% N1, engines stable, then TO/GA or set takeoff thrust.
- ☐ Verify thrust set before 80 kt. Hands on thrust levers until V1. Steer nosewheel, then rudder.
- ☐ Standard calls: 80 knots, V1, rotate. Rotate smoothly toward ~15°; do not rush (tail-strike risk).
- ☐ Positive rate — gear up. After takeoff: bleeds / packs per procedure, gear lever OFF, start switches as required.

TRAINING / REFERENCE AID ONLY

Not a Boeing-approved or airline-approved checklist. The official 737 Before Takeoff checklist is typically limited to flaps (___ / green light) and stabilizer trim (___ units). Airline SOPs, MEL items, runway-change procedures, and FCOM limitations take precedence. Do not use for real-world operations.

MSMAIDS

CHECKLIST IN ANESTHESIA

Complete before induction. Check each item.

M MACHINE

- ☐ Perform a complete anesthesia machine check according to manufacturer or institutional protocol.
- ☐ Check for leaks, oxygen supply, vaporizers, scavenging system, and overall functionality.
- ☐ Ensure power is on and alarms are working.

S SUCTION

- ☐ Ensure suction device is functional and within reach.
- ☐ Test it by aspirating saline or water.
- ☐ Have a backup suction available (especially for difficult airway or emergency cases).

M MONITORS

- ☐ Check that all monitors are functional and correctly connected:
- ☐ ECG leads • Pulse oximeter • Capnography • NIBP / IBP • Temperature probe
- ☐ Spirometry and agent analyzer if applicable
- ☐ Confirm alarms are active and set properly.

A AIRWAY

- ☐ Prepare airway equipment: laryngoscopes (light check), ETTs (check cuff inflation), oral/nasal airways, stylets, bougies, supraglottic airway devices.
- ☐ Have backup airway devices ready (e.g., video laryngoscope, critical airway aids).

I IV ACCESS

- ☐ Confirm at least one reliable IV line is in place.
- ☐ Check patency and secure with tape. Prepare fluids and flush lines.

S SPECIAL EQUIPMENT / SETTINGS

- ☐ Check for any special requirements for the case:
- ☐ Fiberoptic scope • Difficult airway cart • PNS (peripheral nerve stimulator)
- ☐ Temperature management device • Positioning aids

CRATERS

HANDLER / OWNER SAFETY CHECKLIST • DOG SHOWS & EVENTS

Complete at setup, before leaving the crate, and anytime the dog is out of your direct sight.

C — CRATE & SITE

- ☐ Crate is clean, dry, structurally sound, latches work, no broken wire or sharp edges.
- ☐ Placed in shade or climate-controlled space; not on hot asphalt; not blocking aisles or exits.
- ☐ Bedding is non-slip, dry, and absorbent; spare pads packed. Floor of crate is cool to the touch.
- ☐ Crate ID card posted: dog name, owner/handler cell, emergency contact, nearest ER vet.

R — RESTRAINT, ID & BACKUP LEAD

- ☐ Backup lead or slip lead clipped to the OUTSIDE of the crate (not loose inside where it can tangle).
- ☐ Show lead, martingale/collar, and extra collar packed. Tags current. Microchip number written on ID card.
- ☐ Remove dangling tags or the collar itself when the dog is crated unsupervised (entanglement risk).
- ☐ Ex-pen, if used, is staked or clipped, tall enough, and double-checked after every in-and-out.

A — AIRFLOW, COVER & CLIMATE

- ☐ Crate cover in place only if at least two sides stay fully open for ventilation. Never seal a crate.
- ☐ Airflow confirmed at the crate, not just the building thermometer. Battery fan packed; cords secured.
- ☐ Cooling tools ready for the season: shade cloth, cool coat, damp towel on the ground, frozen bottles outside the crate (not in contact with the dog).
- ☐ Do not leave a dog unattended in a fully enclosed vehicle. Fans, AC, and phone alerts are aids — not a substitute for ventilation and checks. (AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles policy, July 2026.)

T — TEAM — DESIGNATED WATCHER

- ☐ Named person assigned to watch this dog whenever the owner/handler leaves the crate area. Verbal handoff, not assumed.
- ☐ Watcher has the handler's cell number, knows where the dog is, and will not leave until the handler returns or a new watcher is named.
- ☐ No "just a minute" gaps: ring, restroom, lunch, grooming table, and whelping/other-dog duties all require a watcher.
- ☐ If no watcher is available, the dog stays with the handler or is not left on the grounds.

E — EQUIPMENT, WATER, BAIT & HYGIENE

- ☐ Water bucket or bowl the dog will actually use, filled with fresh water, checked and refilled often. Spare water in the setup.
- ☐ Bait/treats in a closed container. Do not leave food unattended where other dogs or people can reach it.
- ☐ Grooming tools serviceable, cleaned, and sanitized between dogs. Do not share brushes, bowls, bait bags, or towels.
- ☐ Waste bags, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and a towel for wet or soiled bedding are in the setup.

R — REIGNCHECK — LAST LOOK BEFORE YOU WALK AWAY

- ☐ Reigncheck: Check your back seat, Check your crates, Check before you lock and leave.
- ☐ I have LOOKED at this dog with my own eyes in the last minute — gums, panting, posture, and alertness.
- ☐ Every dog in my care is accounted for. I know exactly where each one is.
- ☐ A NAMED person is watching this dog, or the dog is coming with me. No assumed coverage. No "just a minute."
- ☐ Air is moving through the crate or vehicle. I can feel airflow. The space is not sealed.
- ☐ Water is in reach. Crate or vehicle floor is cool to the hand.
- ☐ I will not leave a fully enclosed, unattended vehicle. AC, fans, and phone alerts are not a substitute for a look. (AKC 2026)
- ☐ Final vehicle / grounds check complete before I take the keys, leave the building, or go to another ring.

S — SICK, STRESS & SAFETY NET

- ☐ Dog is fit to be here: no cough, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, unexplained lethargy, or recent exposure to sick dogs.
- ☐ Know heat-stress signs: heavy panting, bright-red gums, drooling, weakness, glassy eyes, wobbliness, collapse. Stop work. Move to shade and airflow. Apply cool (not ice) water to body and keep air moving. Call a veterinarian. Cool first, then transport.
- ☐ First-aid kit packed. Local ER vet address and phone written on the crate card and in the phone. Medications labeled.
- ☐ After the class: water, shade, and a quiet rest period before the next ring or the ride home. Recheck crate heat and water before loading.

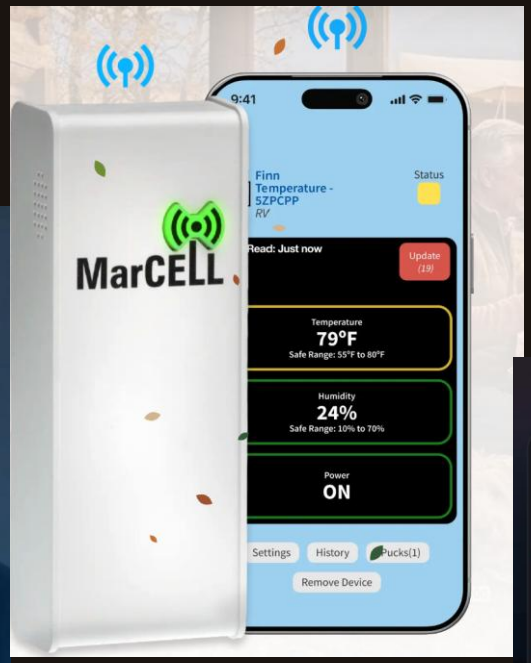
Dogs first. Every decision. Every time. — In memory of Reign

WELFARE AID — NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR EVENT RULES OR VETERINARY CARE

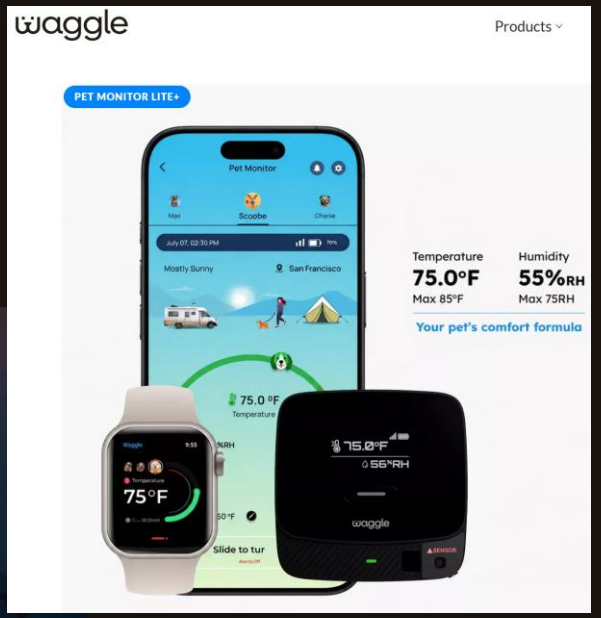
CRATERS and REIGNCHECK are original training aids. Points drawn from event-safety practice, Reign for Change crate/travel guidance, AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles policy (July 2026), and heat-illness recommendations. Not an official Reign for Change, AKC, or club form. If the dog is in distress, get veterinary help immediately.

Monitor Systems Redundnacy is Key (N0 single Point of Failure)















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Three jobs. Three organizations. Do not merge them.

DPCA

The parent club

Run the National and the sport. Write the standard. Educate judges. Host conformation, Top 20, agility, obedience, working.

Owns the event. Does not exist to write and maintain safety checklists as its core job.

DPHF

The research fund

The Doberman Pinscher Health Foundation funds genetic and clinical research — DCM, GDV, Wobblers, cancer.

Essential. Not an event-safety system.

DPSF

The safety foundation

“Own” preventable harm at shows and performance. Publish checklists. Provide training materials to chairs, handlers, and the fancy. Provide training to juniors in the sport. Learn from incidents. Issue recommendations chapters can put in the premium list.

Partner with existing organizations. Do not replace.

APSF did not replace ASA. It made the operating room safer. DPSF should make the show grounds safer.

Source: DPCA About Us; Doberman Pinscher Health Foundation; APSF History.

PROPOSED VISION

DPSF: That no Doberman shall be harmed by a preventable cause at a show or performance event.

PROPOSED MISSION

Improve Doberman safety at conformation and performance events by:

- Publishing checklists and best practices for heat, vehicles, cold, and other preventable event injuries.
- Convening owners, handlers, chairs, and medical professionals to turn those tools into club-ready protocols that everyone has ready access to.
- Building a culture that learns from near-misses — so tragic events do not repeat themselves

Source: Adapted from APSF Mission, Vision and Values.

Four levers — how checklists become practice

01 Research

Fund implementation work: which checklists get used, where heat injuries cluster, how vehicle near-misses actually happen. Learn from incidents without naming kennels.

This is “Event learning.”

02 Education

A printed and phone-ready Event Safety Checklist pack. A National safety booth. Chapter-chair kits. Novice-handler cards that fit a bait bag.

Make the next check easier than the last rumor.

03 Consensus

Annual consensus at National — show chairs, performance chairs, handlers, ER vets. One published protocol set each year.

Year one: heat, vehicles, and cold.

04 Advocacy

Language chapters can drop into premium lists. Partner with AKC event committees. A confidential near-miss channel.

Change the default.

APSF’s first products were standards people could run. Ours will be too.

Source: APSF levers of action; AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy, July 2026.

First product — three checklists a handler can run tomorrow

Heat injury

- Check forecast and humidity before you leave
- Seven-second asphalt test before the dog walks
- Shade and water at every crate — not just the ring
- Rest between classes; black coats get extra watch
- Heart dogs and seniors are high-alert
- Cool — not ice — water on the underside if panting hard
- Know the nearest ER before you park

Vehicles

- No unattended dog in a sealed vehicle
- AC, fans, and monitors are backups — not a person
- Buddy system: someone always knows where the dog is
- Count dogs before you walk to the ring. Count again
- Year-round. Cold cars kill too
- Have a backup indoor crate before you need one
- If you cannot check, do not crate out

Cold injury

- Short coat and low fat = high risk
- Dry the dog before the crate. Wet dogs lose heat fast
- Raised bedding. Three-side cover. Off concrete
- A coat between classes in wind
- Ears and paws: frostbite can start in 30 minutes
- Never crate a wet dog in an unheated vehicle
- Watch shivering, pale gums, lethargy
- REMEMBER! Shivering greatly increases oxygen consumption—Dobermans with cardiac compromise (whether diagnosed or undiagnosed) are at risk from myocardial ischemia and sudden cardiac death

Also in v1: crate security, generator setback, lost-dog protocol, over-exercise between classes, ring-gate escape, and a chair’s grounds walk — shade, water, ER map — before the first dog is judged.

Source: Draft overview. AKC July 2026 vehicle policy.

Two organizations already wrote some hard lessons. DPSF should adopt them.

REIGN FOR CHANGE

Show-dog lessons

Reign, a 2½-year-old Doberman, #5 in the DPCA Top 20, died on August 10, 2025 after she was left in a parked, non-running personal vehicle for four hours after a show.

Reign for Change product for us: the "Reign Check." Look before you lock. Check the back seat. Check the cargo. Check again. Take them out.

Takeaway: forgetting is the hazard. Build a habit that does not depend on memory.

CHILLI'S VOICE

The working-dog lesson

K-9 Chilli died on June 11, 2026 after she was left in a patrol vehicle that had no K-9 heat-safety equipment.

Their ask: a written transport policy, heat alarms, redundant temperature monitoring, documented daily checks, and immediate reporting when a system fails. Alarms are not a person.

Takeaway: publish the policy. Layer the checks. Never trust one device.

Source: Reign for Change, reignforchange.com; Chilli's Voice, chillisvoice.org. Used with respect for both families.

More recent tragedies dog tragedies in the past 6 months.

Show-dog lessons

Multiple Kuvasz dogs died on May 30, 2026 at the Kuvasz Club of America National Specialty after they were left for several hours in a transport vehicle where climate control systems failed.

Takeaway: Redundant monitoring should be standard monitoring. Frequent vehicle checks are essential.

Bonus, a golden retriever died on a grooming table on August 20, 2026 next to a show ring, surrounded by people but with no evident intervention. Necropsy was done but results have not been officially released publicly as a legal process is pending.

Takeaway: Never leave a dog unattended on a grooming table. If you have to step away out of sight momentarily a specific "watcher" should be designated.

Working-dog lessons

K-9 Bart (Madison County Sheriff's Office), a just over 2 year old German Shepherd Dog died on September 19, 2026 after he was left in an enclosed outdoor pen with no access to water for 36 hours. The heat index on September 19 reached 101 degrees. Necropsy revealed cause of death as heat stroke and severe dehydration.

Takeaway: Redundant monitoring should be standard monitoing. Fresh, clean water source is essential. Arrange appropriate, competent care when away for any extended period of time.

Source: Reign for Change, reignforchange.com; Chilli's Voice, chillisvoice.org. Used with respect for both families.

The Reign Check — every time you walk away from the vehicle



1	2	3	4	5
The dog comes out of the vehicle before you walk away. Not “in a minute.” Not “engine running.” Out.	Open the rear doors. Look at the floor, under blankets, in every crate. Eyes, not memory.	Hatch, trunk, SUV cargo, trailer. This is where show dogs are left. Treat it as a second cabin.	A second look after the first. Fatigue and ring-brain skip step 2. Step 4 exists because they do.	Lock only after 1–4. Phone or keys ride in the back as a forced reminder.

Aids that help the habit: dash cling (“DOG IN CAR”), rearview tag, phone in the cargo, a named buddy who will not leave until they see empty crates. Aids do not replace the five steps.

Source: Reign for Change — Reign Check / Look Before You Lock. reignforchange.com

Heat — a four-box checklist, no “winging it”

1 BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Forecast + humidity, not just the high.
Name which dogs are high-alert: black coat, DCM, senior, puppy.
Pack cooling tools, extra water, shade cloth, thermometer.
Write the nearest ER on a card on the dash.
If the day is not safe for that dog, the dog stays home.

2 ON ARRIVAL

Unload first. Move the vehicle second.
Seven-second asphalt test before any walk.
Crate in shade with airflow on two sides. Off hot pavement.
Water down immediately — even if they are “fine.”
Note crate temperature, not just the air.

3 BETWEEN CLASSES

A named person owns the crate. Not “someone.”
Rest in a quieter, cooler spot. No extra gaiting in the sun.
Re-check gums, panting, willingness to drink.
Black coats and heart dogs get an extra look every class change.
Cool water on the underside if panting hard — not ice.

4 BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Reign Check the vehicle.
Count dogs against the entry list.
Do not load a hot dog into a hot cabin — cool the vehicle first.
Water for the drive. A/C on before the dog gets in.
Buddy confirms empty setup before you pull out.

Source: Reign for Change, “Dog Show Safety,” 4 Apr 2026; AKC heatstroke guidance; Cornell Riney Canine Health Center.

Vehicles — four layers. The top layer is a person.

01

A named human takes responsibility for every dog in a vehicle

AKC 2026: unattended in a sealed vehicle is prohibited. Fans, AC, and monitors do not, by themselves, make it safe. Monitor redundancy is key!

02

A buddy who can reach the vehicle in under two minutes

Ring conflicts are when dogs get forgotten. Assign coverage before you gait. The buddy does the Reign Check if you cannot.

03

A temperature monitor the handler can hear and see

Chilli's Voice: redundant monitoring, documented daily check that the device actually works. A dead alarm is worse than none.

04

Heat-alarm / auto-vent as a last layer — never the only layer

K-9 units still lose dogs when AC and alarms fail. Publish what you use. Test it. Report failures. Do not crate out if layer 01 is empty.

Crate in the vehicle: latched, ventilated on two sides, secured so it cannot slide, ID on the crate, water the dog will use, backup lead clipped outside. Center of the cabin.

Source: Chilli's Voice (chillisvoice.org); Reign for Change crate essentials; AKC Unattended Dogs in Vehicles Policy, July 2026; AVMA pets in vehicles.

Supervision is assigned — “someone is watching” is not a plan

Assign in your head one “owner” for each job before you unload.

Unload	Who takes each dog out of the vehicle
Ring conflict	Who stays with crated dogs when you go in
Water + airflow	Who checks bowls and crate vents every class
Between-class crate	Named eyes on every dog left in a crate
Final vehicle check	Who runs the Reign Check before you leave

Write the five names on a card taped to the setup. If a name is blank, that job is not covered. Do not start the day.

CRATE ESSENTIALS

Latch works. Hardware intact.
Ventilation on at least two opposite sides.
Non-slip bedding that stays dry.
Raised off hot or frozen ground.
Clear ID on the crate — dog, owner, phone.
Water system the dog will actually use.
Backup lead clipped outside, not loose inside.
No blocked aisles. Fire-code walkway stays open.
No overnight in banned areas. Read the premium list.
Cold day: three-side cover, dry dog first, off concrete.

Source: Reign for Change, supervision and crate essentials, 4 Apr 2026; AKC Show Manual on aisles and unloading.

See it early. Pack like you mean to come home.

HEAT STRESS

Heavy panting. Bright red gums.
Drooling. Skin hot to the touch.
Weakness. Vomiting.
Disorientation. Collapse.
Stop. Shade. Cool water on the underside. ER — do not wait it out.

COLD / FATIGUE

Shivering. Pale gums. Lethargy.
Wet coat + wind = emergency.
Refusal to drink. Pacing.
Trembling. Lip-licking. Diarrhea.
Dry, warm, off concrete. Do not crate wet.

ILLNESS — STAY HOME

Cough. Sneeze. Nasal or eye discharge.
Fever. Lethargy. Drop in stamina.
AKC: no dog with a communicable disease on the grounds.

PACK LIST — BEFORE THE ENGINE STARTS

Records and ER number on the dash.
Extra leads and collars.
Crate ties. Water + familiar bowls.
Seasonal cooling or coats.
First-aid for dog and human.
Disinfectant. Spare dry bedding.
Written meds and feeding for anyone helping.

Premium list: crating rules, overnight ban, unloading, electric, shade, ER.
Chair's grounds walk: water, shade, aisle width, generator setback, lost-dog plan.
If you see a dog in a sealed hot car: stay, call 911 / event committee, do not walk past.

Source: Reign for Change warning signs and pack list; AKC / AVMA heat and illness guidance; Chilli's Voice — do not walk past a sealed vehicle.

DPSF: Independent on purpose — so the checklists stay honest and useful

Form

A new 501(c)(3), not just a DPCA standing committee. Founding board of 5–7. Seats for a conformation chair, a performance chair, a handler, a breeder, an ER veterinarian, and a DPCA liaison.

Independence rules

DPCA may seed and appoint a liaison. It does not own the agenda. Checklists are published in public. Near-miss reports stay confidential. No kennel, professional handler, or officer edits a protocol to protect a reputation.

Money

Year-one budget TBD, Est. $5-10K — checklist pack, booth, one consensus, administration. Interested organizations, industry (crates, cooling, travel), and individuals each take a third.

Why this structure

APSF was built independent so it could talk about accidents in public. Event safety will require the same candor. Invite Reign for Change and Chilli's Voice to the founding table, if they wish to partner. The idea is not to re-invent the wheel but augment with continuous improvement the goal.

Source: APSF founding history, 1985. Year-one budget is an estimate.

WHAT THIS 100th NATIONAL CAN ACCOMPLISH FOR DOG SAFETY

Four decisions to be made at this 100th National:

1. Stand up a small founding working group, 90 days to draft bylaws and v1 of the Event Safety Checklist pack.
2. Name a DPCA liaison.
3. Invite Reign for Change and Chili's Voice to partner with DPSF, if they wish.
4. Put a DPSF consensus session and a safety booth in the next National program.

DPSF: "That no Doberman shall be harmed by a preventable cause at a show or performance event."

Questions???

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DPSF: “That no Doberman shall be harmed by a preventable cause at a show or performance event”

Dobermanpinschersafetyfoundation.org



And God said,
“Send dogs to Earth without wings,
so that no one will suspect they are angels.”

DPSF

From this room to checklists in the premium list

Months 0–3

Charter working group. Draft bylaws. File 501(c)(3). Lock v0.9 of the three checklists for comment.

Months 3–6

Seat the board. Publish v1. Pilot with two chapter specialties and one performance trial.

Months 6–12

DPSF Brief No. 1. Near-miss channel live. Premium-list language for any chapter that wants it.

Next National

Consensus session on the program. Safety booth. First educational review from the year’s incidents.