

## ***Puppy's Death Prompts Warning On Heat, Pets***

The death of a puppy left outside in the heat has prompted officials to warn pet owners that weather not fit for man nor beast means just that.

A man from North St. Louis was charged Tuesday with animal neglect after authorities said they had found a dog that had been left "in direct sunlight with no food, no water and no shelter . . . and all wrapped up in its chain and a garden hose."

Jeff Gibbs, field director for the Humane Society of Missouri, said the temperature of the ground on which the dog was found Tuesday afternoon had exceeded 106 degrees — the highest reading on Gibbs' thermometer. The animal's temperature was higher than 110 degrees, officials said.

"Any time that a heat warning is issued for senior citizens or for children, people should also consider their animals,

including animals that have shelter," Gibbs said. "The temperature inside a shelter can exceed the external temperature."

Police said Darvin Feldhaus, 32, of the 1900 block of Angelica Street, had been arrested Tuesday. He told police that the dog, identified as a mixed breed about 6 months old, was his, but he refused to make any other statement. He was charged with animal neglect, a misdemeanor, police said.

Authorities said neighbors reportedly had been caring for the animal. Gibbs said the Humane Society had received a call that the dog had been choking. It was already dead when an officer arrived. The dog apparently had outgrown its collar, police said.

Death was attributed to probable heat stroke and strangulation.

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