

# AB 1781 (Rubio)

## Safe Transportation of Dogs and Cats Act

### Bill Summary

Assembly Bill AB 1781 requires mobile or traveling housing facilities, such as animal control vehicles, to transportation of dogs and cats in such a manner that conditions do not endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to extreme temperatures or lack of food or water. Temperatures in California range from below freezing to well over 100 degrees. These extreme temperatures put animals being transported inside vehicles at risk of severe injury or death.

### Previous Law

AB 797 (Steinorth), Right to Rescue Act, was signed into law to exempt people from criminal and civil liability for actions, reasonably and in good faith, to remove an animal from a vehicle if the animal's safety appears to be in immediate danger, including turning the animal over to law enforcement, animal control, or emergency responders.

Code of Colorado Regulations, 8 CCR 1201-11, mandates that temperatures in mobile or traveling housing facilities are controlled for the safety of the animal being transported.

### Background

While AB 797 protects animals in civilian vehicles, there are no temperature control standards for animals in public or private mobile traveling housing facilities for dogs and cats, such as animal control or animal shelter transportation vehicles. Leaving animals vulnerable to extreme temperatures that can vary throughout California. Yet, there are no statutes in law requiring animal safety while being transported by animal control or other entities.

In the absence of statewide safe temperature control transportation standards, dogs and cats may experience severe effects from extreme temperatures during transportation. While cases are rare, they do occur, such as [in the case in Visalia, CA, of a dog that](#)

[died from heat exhaustion while in custody of animal control.](#)

Animals can sustain brain damage or even death from heatstroke in just 15 minutes. Beating the heat is extra particularly difficult for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and sweating through their paw pads.

### This Bill

This bill ensures that dogs and cats are protected from extreme temperatures during transportation in animal control vehicles or other traveling housing facilities by stating the conditions during transportation shall not endanger the health or well-being of the animal.

### Support

Sponsor: Social Compassion in Legislation

### For More Information

Taylor Woolfork  
Office of Assemblywoman Blanca E. Rubio  
(916) 319-2048  
[Taylor.Woolfork@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Taylor.Woolfork@asm.ca.gov)