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Dear Jefferson County Authorities:

Thank you for your prompt action in the death of seven "show dogs" left in Mary Wild's overheated van in Arnold, MO. I understand Wild is charged with eight counts of animal cruelty, while free on \$2,500 bond.

Wild was hired to supervise and transport eight dogs to and from an Iowa dog show the weekend of 6/20/09. At the very least, she neglected to provide heat relief in the a.m. hours of June 22. She kept all eight dogs in her cargo van where temperatures soared to 120 degrees. The dogs succumbed to slow death, likely heatstroke, while Wild slept comfortably indoors.

This tragedy was no accident. Rather than move the dogs into a ventilated, cool area, Wild let them roast in portable kennels inside the van. If it's too hot to unload dogs, as Wild later told police, than it's too hot NOT to.

As defined under Missouri animal abuse law, Wild "recklessly caused injury or suffering to an animal." I urge you to seek maximum penalties, including imprisonment and fine. If found guilty, Wild should reimburse veterinary and carcass disposal costs. In light of the multiple deaths, Wild ought to incur full punishment and be barred from possessing or working with animals.

Animals feel the excruciating pain of heatstroke no differently than humans. Any person who traps them inside a vehicle in the sweltering heat should not care for animals. Seven beautiful dogs were very much alive until Mary Wild's selfish act of cruelty killed them.

Thank you,