

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2024

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer
Ph. (386) 247-1148

Dog left in vehicle leads to animal cruelty arrest

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 8:05 P.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department were dispatched to 2764 W US Hwy 90, Driftwood Inn, in response to a report of a dog being left in a vehicle and in distress.

Upon arrival, officers located the described vehicle parked in front of room 14. Inside the car was a medium-sized brown dog, panting heavily and drooling. The car's windows were only rolled down 1-2 inches, limiting airflow, and there was no water source in the vehicle. Officers were able to open a door, allowing the dog to exit the vehicle. The dog was carried to a water source, where water was run over it in an attempt to cool it down. The dog was then placed into a patrol vehicle to rest in an air-conditioned environment until the arrival of animal control, who took over care for the animal.

During the investigation, officers determined that Jesse Adam Smith was the owner of the dog. Smith was arrested without incident and transported to the Columbia County Detention Center.

"Leaving pets in a hot vehicle, even for a few minutes, can be deadly. Temperatures inside a parked car can quickly rise to dangerous levels, putting your pet at risk of heatstroke or even death," stated Chief of Police Gerald Butler. "Remember, it's always safer to leave your pets at home where they are cool and comfortable."

Name: Smith, Jesse Adam
DOB: 02/27/1984
Sex/Race: Male/White
Hair/Eyes: Blond/Blue
Address: Arredondo Place, Lake City, FL 32025
Charges: Cruelty to Animals



Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.

Proudly Serving the Citizens of Lake City

225 NW Main Boulevard, Suite 102, Lake City, FL 32055 • Phone: (386) 752-4343 • Fax: (386) 719-5463

An Equal Opportunity Employer

