

STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR WORKING DOGS



CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CONTACT: DAWN CLOVER
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
OFFICE: (916) 444-0845
DAWN@CALCATTLEMEN.ORG

1221 H STREET • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
WWW.CALCATTLEMEN.ORG
PHONE: (916) 444-0845 • FAX: (916) 444-2194

Can Working Dogs Ride Untethered?

The short answer is yes. Pursuant to California Vehicle Code §23117, the transportation of an untethered dog for purposes associated with ranching or farming is a legal activity. If you reside in an area where citations are occurring, you may wish to carry this fact sheet in your vehicle. Please find the pertinent code section below.

California Vehicle Code §23117 reads:

(a) No person driving a motor vehicle shall transport any animal in the back of the vehicle in a space intended for any load on the vehicle on a highway unless the space is enclosed or has side and tail racks to a height of at least 46 inches extending vertically from the floor, the vehicle has installed means of preventing the animal from being discharged, or the animal is cross tethered to the vehicle, or is protected by a secured container or cage, in a manner which will prevent the animal from being thrown, falling, or jumping from the vehicle.

(b) This section does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) The transportation of livestock.
- (2) The transportation of a dog whose owner either owns or is employed by a ranching or farming operation who is traveling on a road in a rural area or who is traveling to and from a livestock auction.
- (3) The transportation of a dog for purposes associated with ranching or farming.