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June 15, 2010

DUI Checkpoint Nets Animal Cruelty Charges for DC Woman

Law enforcement agents frequently set up sobriety checkpoints in an effort to catch intoxicated drivers and reduce the number of DUI accidents. Sometimes, these checkpoints lead to charges other than DUI. While DC DUI lawyers have heard all kinds of strange stories as a result of these sobriety checks, the recent discovery at a sobriety checkpoint may be a first for attorneys and law enforcement.

A DC woman was stopped at a sobriety checkpoint in a neighboring state. When she pulled up to the checkpoint, the officer heard loud noises coming from her trunk. He asked the driver what she had in the trunk, and she stated matter-of-factly, "A goat."

When the officer had the driver open the trunk, sure enough, there was a heavily panting goat tied up in the trunk. Animal control officers gave the goat water and took it to a local pound. An officer on the scene said the temperature in the trunk was 94 degrees, even after being opened for over ten minutes.

As a result of the treatment of the goat, the driver faces animal cruelty charges and will need the services of a DC criminal defense lawyer rather than a DUI attorney. When asked to explain the goat in the trunk, the driver said that she bought the goat from a farmer and was going to give it to her four passengers, who are originally from Kenya. The driver said she is from the United Kingdom, where she claims it is acceptable to transport livestock in the trunk of a vehicle.

DC DUI attorneys know that sobriety checkpoints result in more arrests than just DUI. The checkpoint which discovered the overheated goat yielded 82 arrests and citations--only three of which were for DUI. With so many discoveries that day, however, a goat in the trunk may be the strangest of all.