

# COLD WEATHER SAFETY FOR YOUR PETS

## Protect Your Pets During Cold Temperatures

- ❄️ **Pets should never be left outside for extended periods of time.**
- ❄️ **Provide a warm shelter:** Provide them adequate housing or bring them inside.
- ❄️ **Never leave your dog or cat in a car during cold weather:** a car can act as a refrigerator in the winter keeping cold air in, risking the animal freezing to death.
- ❄️ **Recognize the signs of trouble:** if your pet is shivering, anxious, slowing down, lifting or licking their paws, or whining, your pet could be at risk of hypothermia or frostbite.
- ❄️ **Check an animals paws frequently:** frostbite, de-icing chemicals and ice tears, can injure or damage the pads of their paws. Wipe down your pet's legs and feet after a walk to remove de-icing chemicals. (Use pet booties and ensure a proper fit)
- ❄️ **Make noise before starting your car:** animals are known to seek shelter from the cold in engines or wheel wells of vehicles.
- ❄️ **If your pet has a short coat, consider a sweater or coat for the animal.**
- ❄️ **Keep your animal on leash and close to home:** Animals can get lost more easily in winter storms, when their scent tracks are covered by the weather. Keep them away from frozen lakes, ponds and other water.



According to PetMD, *"In general, cold temperatures should not become a problem for most pets until they fall below 45°F, at which point some cold-averse animals might begin to feel uncomfortable. When temperatures fall below 32°F, owners of small breed dogs, pets with thin coats, and/or very young, old, or sick pets should pay close attention to their well-being. Once temperatures drop under 20°F, all pet owners need to be aware, that their pets could potentially develop cold associated health problems."*

**If you see an animal left out in the cold call:  
Animal Control 970-879-1144**

**Animals left out in the cold are at risk of hypothermia, frostbite, and death.**

**How you can help:**

- Note date, time, exact location, and type of animal involved.
- Take notes on any observed details about the situation before calling.  
(such as: temperature, animal behavior, shelter or water available)
- Call again you see the situation has not been remedied.