



WINTER AND PETS

THE WINTER MONTHS are upon us and as most of you know Alpine temperatures change constantly and it has been known to drop to single digit temperatures during the night and even sometimes during the day. It is important to protect your pets from the elements while they are outside. Alpine Animal Services recommends that all pets be allowed inside when temperatures are below freezing and if they have to go outside, make sure it is not for long periods of time and that they have access to sufficient shelter and water.

Here are some tips for keeping your pet safe in the winter:

- 1** Make sure that your dog has a well insulated waterproof doghouse. If you have outdoor cats make sure they have one too. Shelters should be big enough for them to move around comfortably but retain body heat. Shelters should be elevated and have some type of bedding such as straw or cedar shavings. They should also have a covering for the doorway to hold in heat. Never leave pets outside during an ice or snow storm.
- 2** Always have identification on your pet whether it be a tag or microchip. If your pet gets loose for any reason, they may not be able to find their way home in the snow as they can lose their scent.
- 3** After a walk wipe down paws and fur. Rock salts and other chemicals can irritate the skin and pads of feet. It can also be potential poisonous if ingested and irritate the mouth. Antifreeze is poisonous to pets and can be fatal. Make sure to clean up any spills that may have happened. Call your veterinarian immediately if your pet ingests any potentially harmful chemicals.
- 4** Bang on the hood of your vehicle before starting it. Smaller animals such as cats and wildlife may have used your car for a safe warm place to curl up for the night. Without a warning an animal may not be able to get out in time and could be injured when you turn on your vehicle.

- 5** Avoid shaving animals down. Their fur will protect them from the weather. If needed, trim longer haired animals to avoid ice balls accumulating on them when they are outside. Minimize bathing as well, excess bathing can increase dry flaky skin.
- 6** Keep them well hydrated, make sure that water bowls do not freeze and that the water is changed often.
- 7** Lastly if you see an animal that needs help or maybe you just want us to do a welfare check to make sure their ok don't hesitate to call us and report it at 432-837-3486. It is better to be safe than sorry.

LINKS TO CITY ORDINANCES:

https://library.municode.com/tx/alpine/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH10AN_ARTIIKEAN_DIV1GE_S10-41ST

https://library.municode.com/tx/alpine/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH10AN_ARTIIKEAN_DIV1GE_S10-60TEANUNREDO

