

Press Conference  
Kitty Block

The CEO of the Humane Society will be presenting this speech to the news on the impact the weather has on the care of your animals and The Humane Animal Welfare Society partnering with Wings of Rescue to airlift animals out of natural disasters.

The Humane Society has many goals, big and small. This organization fights the big fights, works to end all forms of animal cruelty and achieve the vision of being our name: a humane society. We stand up for animals and those who are suffering. We do it all with the help from our community.

Recently, temperatures have been dropping and pets everywhere need your help. Cold weather can be deadly for pets. We have seen a high number of complaints of animals who have been left outside with no food, water or shelter. We strongly encourage you to please contact law enforcement agencies to help save those pets. Animals left outside in extreme temperatures are at high risk of hypothermia, frostbite and possibly even death. The owners of these animals can face criminal charges. Animal neglect is when the animals' caretakers fail to provide water, shelter or veterinary care sufficient for survival. Leaving an animal in the freezing cold is neglect. The act of leaving a pet outside without food or adequate shelter most often receives less attention than a violent attack against an animal. Here are some tips to protect pets in winter.

1. Keep pets sheltered. Keep your animals inside with your family and friends. Under no circumstances should cats be left outdoors, even if they are an outside cat during other seasons. If for some reason your dog is outdoors for most of the day, they must be protected by a dry shelter that is large enough for them to move comfortably. The floor should also be raised a few inches above the ground and covered with straw or cedar shavings. The doorway must also be covered. A friendly reminder that pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food and water in the winter. Please make sure to check to see if they have fresh water that is unfrozen. When the temperature is low, your pets' tongue can stick to metal so make sure to use plastic food and water containers.
2. "Bundle up, wipe down." Exposed skin on noses, ears and paws are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia. Most short-haired dogs feel more comfortable wearing a sweater. With the cold weather comes the many chemicals and rock salt that covers the roads to melt snow and ice. These chemicals can irritate the pads of your pet's feet and need to have their paws wiped with a damp towel before your pet has a chance to lick them and irritate their mouth.
3. Remove common poisons. Antifreeze often attracts animals and children because of its sweet taste. Please make sure to wipe up any spills of antifreeze and keep out of reach of animals.

4. Protect outdoor animals. If you see outdoor cats, remember they need protection from the climate as well as food and water. This includes both owned and community cats in your area. Winter is a hazard to small animals because they try to seek heat anywhere they can. A popular area for small animals- especially cats- is warm engines in parked cars. To avoid injuring any animal, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your car and injuring them.
5. Speak out. If you see a pet left in the cold, politely let the owner know you are concerned for their pet. Some individuals are unaware of the risk the cold weather puts on their pets and livestock. If you do raise this concern and they continue to neglect their animals, please report them to local law enforcement

#### Horse Care

Please make sure your horses have easy access to a barn or a three-sided run-in so they have the option to escape the wind and cold. Not all horses require to be blanketed but blankets help horses keep warm and dry in the harsh weather. Give your horse's access to unfrozen water at all times. You might need to use heated buckets to make sure the water doesn't freeze. Just like with the small animals, you need to make sure you are feeding your horses more, even unlimited amounts, because of the extreme cold. This will help your horse create heat and regulate its body temperature.

If you need any advice or additional information, contact us. We are not a law enforcement agency, therefore we cannot take legal action, but we can provide expert counseling.

We will also need more help and support from our community as about 100 adorable pets will be heading to Wisconsin because of Hurricane Ida. The Humane Animal Welfare Society has partnered with Wings of Rescue to airlift animals out of natural disasters. These animals are being transported from Mississippi and Louisiana shelters that were hit by Hurricane Ida. Since these animals were already in shelters they will be ready to be adopted very quickly once they arrive. They will first need to undergo medical evaluations and get any needed treatment. "These pets have faced stressful times, we know our adopters will step up to offer each one of them comfort- and a very happy landing." Wisconsin shelters that are accepting displaced pets include Elmbrook Humane Society, the Humane Society of Sheboygan County and the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin. Some animals will also be taken to shelters in North Dakota as well.

Please remember that these animals will also need foster care families. Fostering animals is a great way to make sure these animals are receiving all the love and attention they deserve as well as preparing them for a home. Foster families are also the first to be able to adopt the animals as well. If you are interested in fostering please contact us by either calling at 920-469-3110 or by heading to our website and filling out our application.

We look forward to hearing from you and are thankful for all this community does for our organization.