



### COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR PETS

♥ Most dogs, and cats are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise, play and socialization. Shorthaired dogs or very young or old dogs and cats should never be left outside for long periods. No matter what the temperature, wind-chill or frost-bite can threaten a pet's life.

♥ Your pet's doghouse should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and aid in warmth retention. Shelters should be insulated or heated. The dog house should be just large enough for the dog to lie down and have a little head room when sitting. The proper size allows your pet to relax comfortably and at the same time, build up and maintain body heat. An overly large shelter makes it difficult to stay warm. Fresh hay, straw or other bedding can be put to provide additional comfort.

♥ Your pet's home should have a door to keep out winter winds, sleet, and snow. A flap of carpet or a tarp will serve the purpose of keeping your pet warm and protected from the elements.

♥ Animals can't burn calories without a fresh supply of water. If they can't burn calories, they'll get cold.

♥ Water sources may be heated to permit constant access to unfrozen water; thermal units designed specifically for this purpose are readily available. Also, use a tip-resistant, ceramic, plastic or rubber water bowl rather than a metal one, as your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to cold metal.

♥ Warm engines of parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

♥ Your pet needs to burn energy to stay warm. Make sure you are feeding your pet enough to stay healthy and maintain a good body condition. It's always a good idea to physically examine your pet when grooming as a heavy winter coat may hinder your ability to visually determine that your pet has lost weight.

♥ Make sure to consider your pet's breed, coat and age when you plan their environment and activities. A husky or malamute may love playing in the snow. However, a small terrier or older dog need a sweater to stay warm when traveling from the house to the car.

For more information about pet behavior or humane care of pets, please call 242-4646 or visit our web-site at [www.mesacounty.us](http://www.mesacounty.us)

**Mesa County Animal Services**

