



Humane Society of Central Oregon

61170 SE 27th Street ~ Bend OR ~ 97702

541.382.3537 ~ www.hsco.org

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, December 16, 2008

For more information: Karen Szymanski 541 382-3537 or Lynne Ouchida 541 330-7096

Cold Weather Considerations for Pets

As sub zero temperatures hit Central Oregon the Humane Society of Central Oregon would like to remind people to provide extra care for their pets.

- **Pets are best kept inside.**
- **Bring your pet inside when the temperature drops to 32 degrees** with the wind-chill factor.
- **Dogs and cats can get frost bitten** ears, nose, and feet if left outside.
- **Chemicals** used to melt snow and ice can irritate paws. Buy “pet safe” ice melters.
- **If your pet must be kept outside:**
 - Provide a dry, elevated dog house with clean dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out.
 - Make sure the water bowl does not freeze. Heated water bowls are available.
 - Outdoor pets need more calories to produce body heat.
- **Keep antifreeze, salt and other household poisons away from pets.**
- **Make sure a cat has not crawled under your car** seeking shelter and warmth near the engine. Tap on hood before starting the engine.
- **Booties allow your dog to walk in the snow** and prevent injury from ice.
- **Indoor pets get less exercise** and expend less energy keeping warm, so feed them less.
- **Watch your pet around heating stoves to prevent burns and dehydration.**
- **Horses need winter care too:**
 - Make sure your horse has clean, dry bedding. Moist bedding can cause foot infection.
 - Make sure water in trough does not freeze.
 - Have hooves checked and prepared for winter.

Protecting our pets with preventative care can be the best gift of all. An emergency visit to a veterinarian is always more expensive, so don't take chance! For more information call the Humane Society of Central Oregon at 382-3537 or visit www.hsco.org.

###