

## Keep Pets Safe During Stormy and Cold Weather

The Humane Society of Central Oregon would like to offer some pet safety tips for the "wind advisory" in effect for Central Oregon through 10:00 pm Friday. Wind gusts up to 55 mph are expected in some areas with most areas receiving gusts between 18 – 35 mph. Take precautions to keep your companion animals safe and secure. Dogs and cats may run away or get disoriented when fences blow down as posts loosen in the moist soil, objects fall or fly in the wind or the noise of a big gust frightens them.

On top of the wind gusts, it is expected to rain or snow for the next six days with overnight temperatures beginning Saturday around 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The Humane Society of Central Oregon is reminding people that Oregon law (ORS 167.310) requires that a domestic animal has "access to a barn, dog house or other enclosed structure sufficient to protect the animal from wind, rain, snow or sun and that has adequate bedding to protect against cold and dampness."

The Humane Society of Central Oregon offers these preventative tips during stormy, cold weather:

- Bring your pet inside during the storm and watch them when let outside.
- Check all fencing and lock all gates.
- 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. A doghouse should allow your dog to comfortably sit and lay down but small enough to hold in its body heat.
- 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 and garage 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.

Large Animals need winter care too:

- Provide a wind break and/or shelter for horses and livestock to block wind and rain.
- Make sure horses and other livestock have clean, dry bedding.
- Make sure water in trough does not freeze.

- Have hooves checked and prepared for winter.

If your pet becomes lost or you have found a pet, call the Humane Society of Central Oregon at 382-3537 or your local animal shelter to report it. The Humane Society wants to safely and quickly return a lost animal to its caretaker. For more information call 382-3537.