



## Humane Society of Central Oregon

61170 SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street ~ Bend OR ~ 97702

541.382.3537 ~ [www.hsco.org](http://www.hsco.org)

### **For Immediate Release:**

**Monday, January 14, 2008**

### **For more information:**

Karen Szymanski 541 382-3537

Lynne Ouchida 541 330-7096

cell) 541 350-2589

## **Keep Pets Safe During Windy Weather**

The Humane Society of Central Oregon would like to offer some pet safety tips for the high winds hitting our area now. Wind gusts and flying objects can injure or frighten pets. Take precautions to keep your companion animals safe and secure. Dogs and cats may run away or get disoriented when fences blow down, objects fall or fly in the wind or the noise of a big gust frightens them. The next few nights are predicted to be in the teens and single digits so take precautions to keep your pet warm.

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.
- **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.

**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 with its caretaker. For more information call 382-3537 or visit [www.hsco.org](http://www.hsco.org).

####