

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2022

Cold Weather Safety Tips For Your Pets

Wichita Falls, Texas – The City of Wichita Falls is gearing up for a major cold-weather event. Citizens need to be aware that the cold weather can put animals in extreme danger.

- Pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, injured, or die from being outdoors in below zero temperatures. Therefore, all animals should be kept inside, especially during nighttime.
- Outdoor cats sometimes seek shelter underneath cars. So bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give cats a chance to escape.
- If you cannot bring your pet in, the city ordinance requires all citizens who own animals to have adequate shelter. The shelter is defined as:
 - Chapter 14-452
 - 1) As a structure that shall be fully enclosed on three sides, the structure shall have a solid attached roof with no gaps and shall have a solid floor attached to the structure. The fourth side of the shelter shall contain the entrance to the shelter. Such entrance shall be flexible to allow the animal's entry and exit and sturdy enough to block entry of wind, rain, hail, sleet, snow, subfreezing temperatures, and any other elements deemed detrimental to the animal's health well being.
- A covered entry is strongly recommended to keep wind/snow from entering inside of the shelter.
- Use Straw or hay as bedding as they do not retain moisture and ensure your pets stay dry and warm.
- Be sure they have fresh drinking water available at all times. Check frequently as freezing water will not be of use to your pet, and they could become dehydrated.

We strongly encourage citizens to bring animals inside.

City of Wichita Falls Animal Services
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