



**FOOTHILLS
ANIMAL SHELTER**

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Brr...It's getting cold outside! Follow these tips and guidelines to keep your pets and animals in your community safe during extremely low temperatures.



Ensure your pet has access to shelter. Bring your pets inside, or give them access to an insulated shed, garage, or barn. Styrofoam coolers are great temporary shelters for stray animals. Cut out a small entrance hole and add some hay for bedding. Blankets should be avoided, as they trap moisture.



Keep paw pads nice and tidy. If your pet isn't comfortable wearing boots, be sure to wipe their paws off after any walks or outside time. This will keep them free of any salt or anti-freeze spills they may have stepped in. Applying petroleum jelly to paw pads before walks can further protect paws from the elements.



Fill up the food bowl a little bit extra. Access to plenty of food and unfrozen water is important during low temperatures. Pets burn extra energy during low temperatures, so a little bit of extra food can help keep them warm and satiated.



Give the hood of your car a few knocks before starting it. Feral and outdoor cats may seek the heat of car engines to stay warm, hiding underneath your vehicle's hood. Knock the hood of your car before you start your engine to make sure no cats have sought shelter in there.



Be aware of the signs of hypothermia. Prolonged exposure to low temperatures and inclement weather is dangerous for animals, and can be life-threatening. Shivering, weak or slow mobility, stressed, confused, or anxious behavior, and vocalization can all be indicators of hypothermia. Get your pet someplace warm and seek care from a veterinarian.

