



If You're Cold, The Animals Are Cold

Animal Protection New Mexico Urges All To Keep Animals Safe And Warm In Freezing Weather

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Albuquerque, NM—Winter weather is hitting New Mexico with snow, ice, and dangerously cold temps, especially at night. Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) urges New Mexicans to make sure the animals they share their lives with are warm and safe in colder weather.

“Many people believe that dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals won’t get cold because of their fur or hair—that’s a common misconception,” said Alan Edmonds, Cruelty Case Manager at Animal Protection New Mexico. “Many, if not most, of the animals that we share our homes, yards, and barns with are not well-equipped for cold temperatures. They are as susceptible to frost bite and hypothermia as humans are.”

Cold weather animal care tips from APNM:

- Bring the animals indoors, either into your home or into a heated or well-insulated building like a barn or shed.
- Straw makes good insulation for any shelter, barn, or shed.
- Blankets or fabric are not good for keeping animals warm outside—once damp, fabric freezes over.
- Break the ice on water bowls frequently.
- If you can’t bring the animal inside, create an outdoor cold weather shelter.
- The shelter should be tall enough for the animal to sit upright and turn around—if it’s much bigger, they won’t retain their body heat.
- Make sure the shelter is slightly off the ground, so it doesn’t get waterlogged.
- Face the shelter’s entrance south or southeast to guard against the elements and maximize sun exposure.
- Cover the opening with a thick piece of rubber or heavy fabric like a doormat or carpet scrap.

APNM urges New Mexicans to keep an eye on animals kept outside and take steps to get them care if they show signs of cold weather related illness or hypothermia. Signs of hypothermia

include: shivering followed by stillness, slowed heartbeat, lack of coordination, and pale or blue gums.

If you see an animal left outside in bad weather, contact Alan Edmonds, Cruelty Case Manager, at APNM's Animal Cruelty Hotline, (505) 265-2322 ext. 29 or (877) 5-HUMANE or by email at alan@apnm.org.

Alan Edmonds reminds all New Mexicans: "If you are feeling the cold, so are the animals. Bring them inside or ensure they have a place where they can stay warm and safe."

If you would like to protect even more animals in need this winter, consider giving to the APNM's Straw Fund which ensures the availability of insulating straw as needed or requested for any backyard doghouse or outdoor shelter for companion animals within Bernalillo County and Santa Fe/Santa Fe County. For info: <https://apnm.org/give-now/straw-fund-donations/>

About Animal Protection New Mexico

Animal Protection New Mexico's mission is to advocate the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. For more than 40 years, APNM has planned, implemented, and succeeded with dynamic programs, projects, services, and collaborations that span a broad spectrum of animal protection issues.

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