

IN FREEZING COLD OR SWELTERING HEAT YOU MIGHT BE AN ANIMAL'S LAST HOPE



A chained dog can freeze in
winter without warm shelter.
Photo: Angela Stell/NMDOG



**Weather Information and What to
Do if You See an Animal in Need**

When animals aren't cared for properly, they can suffer and even die from exposure to weather extremes outdoors. The idea that a fur coat may keep them warm in winter and cool in summer is not accurate. If you are very hot or very cold outside, animals are, too. Dogs and cats are susceptible to hypothermia and heat stroke, just like we are.

But you can help dogs and other animals who are suffering. In fact, most reports of animal neglect or abuse are thanks to concerned neighbors. Here's what to know and what to do.



IN FREEZING COLD



While *the bare minimum of humane care* for animals includes the following, *your local laws may vary*:

- Proper shelter from wintry weather. If kept outdoors, there should be a structurally sound four-sided enclosure with a roof, entryway, and floor, of appropriate dimensions for the size of the animal, that is ventilated, draft-free, and leak-proof.
- Proper protection from cold temperatures. An outdoor enclosure should either be heated or suitably insulated. Clean, dry straw can provide effective insulation and is better than fabric materials which can become wet and frozen.
- Safe, drinkable water (not frozen) at all times and daily feeding of food that is safe and meant for that particular species.



IN SWELTERING HEAT



Similar *bare minimum of humane care* requirements apply in hot weather:

- Proper protection from the sun and heat. A ventilated enclosure should be kept out of direct sunlight at all times. Other additional outdoor space in the shade, with air circulation and groundcover that stays cool to the touch, should be available at all times.
- Safe, drinkable water kept out of the sun and available at all times and daily feeding of food that is safe and meant for that particular species.
- Skin and coat care to ensure paws are not burned by hot surfaces.



A chained dog suffers in 102 degree heat.

Photo: Angela Stell/NMDOG

HERE'S HOW TO HELP

Should I report it? Is it cruelty?	In conducting cruelty investigations, it's a frustrating reality that what might seem cruel to an observer may not be determined cruel by a court of law. When in doubt, we can help. Call our Animal Cruelty Helpline at 877-5-HUMANE (877-548-6263) for assistance.
What if it's a neighbor and I fear retaliation?	When you call our Animal Cruelty Helpline, we can take your report confidentially, and follow up with the proper authorities. For more information on reporting suspected animal cruelty or abuse, visit apnm.org/reportingcruelty
Who should I call?	First, call your local animal control services or police. If an animal is in critical danger, call 911. If you need help determining who to report the situation to, call our Animal Cruelty Helpline at 877-5-HUMANE (877-548-6263) . Find more info at apnm.org/crueltyhelpline



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These are general guidelines for sun-exposed surfaces. Elderly or young animals, and those with short snouts, may be even more at risk. *All temperatures in Fahrenheit.*

HEAT SAFETY

Outside Skin damage can happen in just 60 seconds at 125°!	OUTSIDE AIR TEMP	CONCRETE	ASPHALT (Black Top)
	85° 91° 97°	105° 125° 145°	130° 140° 150°
In a Vehicle	OUTSIDE AIR TEMP	INSIDE A PARKED CAR	
	70°	can reach 100° in 20 minutes	can reach 140° in less than 1 hour



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THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION

By reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities when you see an animal suffering, you can make a difference between life and death.

Want to do more?

Animal Protection New Mexico, in conjunction with our legislative arm, **Animal Protection Voters**, is always working for better laws to protect animals. Stay up to date on what we're doing and sign up for our email alerts at apnm.org/signup.



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COLD SAFETY

This guide is for animals who are kept outdoors, not for those who reside inside with their family. All temperatures in Fahrenheit.

Is it too cold outside? Dogs and cats are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.	OUTSIDE TEMP.	General Guidelines <i>Remember that windchill and other weather factors can affect these recommendations.</i>
	50° and above	okay
	41° to 50°	use caution
	32° and below	danger



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