



JANUARY 2009

**PREPARE YOUR PETS FOR
WINTER WEATHER**

**EMERGENCY
MESSAGES ARE
BROADCAST ON:**

WFMD 930 AM

WFRE 99.9 FM

WAFY KEY 103.1FM

FCG-TV CHANNEL 19

FCPS-TV CHANNEL 18

CITY OF FREDERICK
CHANNEL 99

NBC 25 WHAG TV

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:**

- Frederick County Government preparedness website at www.co.frederick.md.us/emergency
- Call the Frederick County Department of Emergency Preparedness at 301-600-1746
- E-mail at Emergency-Management@fredco.md.net

Pets should be kept indoors during winter months.

If a pet is outdoors, **by local law, it must be provided with shelter and not restrained to any stationary object for more than ten hours in a twenty-four-hour period.** (Anti-tethering Ordinance, effective 10/01/08.)

The pet's house should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet and snow. Shelters should be insulated or heated. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside.

Indoor pets should have sleeping quarters in a draft-free, warm area with their bed or mattress elevated slightly off the floor. For bedding, use hay or other non-absorbent materials that will remain dry during inclement weather.

Other tips to keep pets safe include:

- **Don't let dogs off their leash** or they may get lost and suffer from cold-weather related problems.
- Snow and salt should be removed from pets' paws immediately to avoid burning the paw pads. Use a pet-safe de-icing salt.
- **Frostbitten skin is red or gray.** Apply warm, moist towels to thaw out frostbitten areas slowly until the skin appears flushed. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for further care.
- Outdoor pets require extra calories to keep warm so feed your pet a little more during cold winter months.
- **Be sure your pet's water doesn't freeze** while outdoors by using a heated water source.

Cats, house pets and wildlife may climb onto vehicle engines for warmth during cold weather. **Be sure to check under the hood before starting your vehicle and honk the horn** to startle any animals seeking shelter inside.

