

Mother Nature is giving us a real winter wakeup call and we implore pet owners all over to please bring your pets inside. For those that must stay outside please make sure they have shelter and protection from the cold, wind and rain. Cold air is also very dry (just think of your chapped lips) and livestock and pets need more water than you think in the winter.

If the water for your outside pets/livestock is frozen that is easy to fix. Just go to your local feed store, pet store or on-line where you can get in-tank water heaters/heated water buckets pretty inexpensively. They do need to be plugged in (can run a long outdoor extension cord if need be) work great and are quite safe. This can save your muscles from hauling water and your pets/livestock will have clear fresh water no matter how low the temps go.

Your pets not only need shelter from wind & precipitation they need to be able to stay warm as well. A dog house (meaning sides, top and a floor) needs to be located so the wind doesn't blast straight into it and also sized for the dog so that the dog's body heat can build inside to keep your pet even warmer. DRY bedding is essential so please check the bedding often to make sure it isn't wet, or even missing. How would you like to sleep on a wet blanket, or moldy pile of hay, or a hard piece of plastic with no cushion?

Please also take your pet's age and health into account as young, healthy animals can handle inclement weather a lot better than older animals. An older horse might need to be blanketed in cold weather and an older dog with arthritis may need much thicker bedding to cushion aching joints and tired muscles. More frequent brushing to remove dead hair & dirt will also help your pet stay warm as a clean coat will provide better insulation against the weather.

We have over 300 pets in our care and every one of them is sleeping on a blanket or comforter because of the wonderful generosity of so many pet loving people – thank you all so very much! But we will do need a continuous influx of 'bedding' as some dogs destroy their beds and some just reach a point of no return so thank you ahead to all who bring us their old comforters and blankets to help our pets. And the doors are lowered and the heat is cranking during this cold snap to keep them all as comfortable as possible while in our care because we care!

If you are worried about an animal that does not have appropriate shelter, is not being cared for, or seems to be a stray, please contact the appropriate Animal Control Officer so they can investigate. Those numbers listed for each town are for issues INSIDE that city limits, all others are considered 'county' and must be called to the Elmore County Sheriff's Office.

Wetumpka: 567-1327

Millbrook: 285-6832

Tallassee: 283-6571

Eclectic: 541-2149

Elmore Township: 514-5988

Coosada: 285-3700

Elmore County Sheriff: 567-1426