

# City Of Lathrop

## HAPPINESS IS A WARM PET



In the winter months, please keep in mind that all animals need shelter from cold, wet weather. The best way to protect pets is to keep them indoors. If animals are not allowed inside the home, alternate shelter such as a wind/water-proof doghouse, or access to the garage should be provided. Outdoor pets need more calories in the winter to produce body heat so you may want to increase the amount of food you are feeding.

Lathrop Animal Services reminds you to think about your pet's safety and recommends the following guidelines to protect your companion animal:

- ❖ Keep your cats inside. Outdoor cats can freeze, become lost or stolen, injured or killed.
- ❖ During the winter, seeking shelter and warmth, outdoor cats sometimes choose to sleep under the hoods of cars where it is warmer. Many cats have been seriously injured or killed by radiator fan blades after crawling up under the engine. On cold mornings, before starting your car you should bang loudly on the hood of your car or slap it noisily to startle any animal sleeping there and wait a few seconds to give the animal a chance to escape.
- ❖ If you plan to travel to the snow, never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Dogs frequently lose their scent in snow and ice and can easily become lost. More dogs are lost in the winter than any other season, so make sure they always wear I.D. tags.
- ❖ Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when they come in out of the sleet, snow or ice. Salt, antifreeze or

other chemicals could hurt your dog if ingested while licking their paws.

- ❖ If you have a shorthaired breed, consider getting a warm coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck for your dog. Look for one that covers the dog from the base of the tail on top to the belly underneath. While this may seem like a luxury, it is a necessity for many.
- ❖ Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during the cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold. Your companion animal could freeze to death.
- ❖ If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take them outdoors only long enough to relieve themselves.
- ❖ Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter.
- ❖ If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities, increase their supply of food, particularly protein, to keep their fur thick and healthy.
- ❖ Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep and is far away from drafts and off the floor. You should consider a dog or cat bed or basket with a warm blanket or pillow in it.