



Virginia Animal Control Association
P.O. Box 1415
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Virginia Animal Control Association urges increased awareness during extreme cold

The Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA) is urging pet owners to take extra precautions as a result of the extreme cold temperatures expected throughout Virginia at the start of this week. Access to shelter is vitally important as temperatures are expected to be in the teens and single digits throughout much of Virginia. Virginia law requires the provision of adequate shelter for companion animals. Under the law, adequate shelter includes protection from “the adverse effects of heat or cold.”

Additional considerations:

- If you have an outside pet, add more insulation to the shelter (such as straw or other bedding) to help protect against the extreme cold. VACA encourages you to bring the animal indoors.
- Check outside water sources frequently as they'll be quick to freeze
- Outdoor pets need more calories during extreme cold to help stay warm. Check with your veterinarian about a proper diet.
- VACA recommends protection from the extreme cold for agricultural animals

Failure to provide adequate shelter could result in removal of the animal and neglect or cruelty charges with convictions bringing fines and/or a jail sentence. If you suspect animal neglect or cruelty, please call your local animal control agency as soon as possible.