

Dedicated professionals and volunteers caring for the many stray and unwanted dogs and cats of Fulton County.



437 Nine Mile Tree Rd.
Gloversville, New York 12078

518 725-0115

Denise Feldle, Shelter Director

Web site: www.pawsforyou.org

Our Mission Statement

The James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society is a non-profit, compassionate organization devoted to securing permanent, responsible, loving homes for the animals of Fulton County. The organization strives to achieve its mission through education and prevention of animal suffering.

This shelter serves the Fulton County community in many ways:

- 1. Provides shelter, food, water, medical care and safety to stray, homeless and unwanted cats and dogs.*
- 2. Helps families find new animal companion.*
- 3. Returns lost pets to their owners.*
- 4. Teaches humane education in schools, kindness towards animals: safety around animals, the link between animal cruelty and violence against humans and builds self-confidence.*
- 5. Has the most aggressive Spay/Neuter Program for low-income families in Fulton County.*
- 6. Pet Food Bank for Seniors in Fulton County, helping seniors with financial difficulties feeding their companions.*
- 7. Girl Scouts merit badge programs.*
- 8. Alternative School Program, providing work-study opportunities for students.*
- 9. Advocates for Animal Law at the State and Federal levels.*

Perhaps most importantly the Brennan Humane Society provides a tangible example of humane ethics and compassion for all living

Protect Your Pet from Winter's Woes

In many areas, winter is a season of bitter cold and numbing wetness. The Humane Society of the United States urges pet owners to take extra precautions this winter to ensure the safety of their companion animals.

"Animals rely solely on their human caregivers for safety and comfort — especially during the winter months," said Stephanie Shain, director of companion animal outreach for The HSUS. "Our pets are particularly vulnerable during this frigid season, and with just a few extra precautions you can help make sure that they stay safe and healthy."

Help your pets remain happy and healthy during the colder months by following these simple guidelines.

- Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and *all* cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

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- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze (and all household chemicals) out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time.

Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

Holiday Safety

- **Christmas plants such as holly and poinsettia are poisonous to dogs.** Keep these plants well out of our dog's reach.
- **Do not introduce a new dog or puppy into your home during the holiday season.** When a dog is adopted into a new environment, it needs lots of attention. Holidays do not permit the time to make a new dog or puppy feel secure. Remember, puppies aren't toys. They are a lifetime commitment. If you wish, give an IOU or gift that represents the dog or puppy. This can be a collar, leash or food bowl.
- **Don't place lights on the lower branches of your Christmas tree.** They can become hot and burn your dog.
- **Puppies may chew on electrical cords.** Be sure to place cords where your dog can't get near them. Dogs can be electrocuted or shocked if they chew on electrical cords.
- **If you purchase holiday gifts or treats for your dog, examine them thoroughly.** Rawhide treats and small plastic balls or toys can be choking hazards.
- **Avoid using glass ornaments.** They will cut your dog's mouth and paws if broken.
- **Never leave your dog unattended if he can get to your Christmas tree.** Sharp needles on both artificial and live trees cannot be digested and can cause a wide range of problems if swallowed.
- **Your dog's intestines can become blocked or circulation can be cut off if tinsel is swallowed.** It's best to avoid using tinsel when dogs are present in your home.
- **Never use edible ornaments to decorate your tree.** Dogs may knock the tree over in order to get to the treats.

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- **Keep all candy and treats out of your dog's reach.** Chocolate, alcohol and marshmallows are toxic for dogs.
- **Keep to a normal schedule as much as possible during the holiday season.** This will prevent your dog from becoming overly stressed. Dogs that are stressed often suffer from behavioral issues.

Follow the tips in this article to keep your dog healthy and safe this winter. Enjoy having fun with him in the snow and enjoy the holidays.

**SHELTER FOR DOGS LEFT OUTDOORS Section 353-b,
Agriculture and Markets Law Effective: November 21', 2003**

The Law: The Owner or Custodian of a dog left outdoors in inclement must provide the dog with shelter appropriate to its breed, physical condition and the climate

Definitions:

Inclement Weather -weather conditions likely to adversely affect the health or safety of the dog (includes rain, sleet, ice, snow, wind, extreme heat or cold, and anything else that is likely to adversely affect the well-being of the dog)

Dog left Outdoors - a dog that is outside in inclement weather without ready access to, or the ability to enter a house, apartment building, office building or any other permanent structure that meets the minimum standards for shelter required by this law.

Physical condition - includes any special medical needs of a dog due to disease, illness, injury, age or breed which an owner or custodian should reasonably know about.

Minimum Standards for Shelter

For Restrained Dogs (tied, chained, etc) - access to shade (natural or artificial) from direct sunlight whenever direct sunlight is likely to adversely affect the health of the dog.

For all Dogs left Outdoors in Inclement Weather- Waterproof roof; structural soundness; sufficient Insulation against inclement weather; space to make normal postural movements; shelter free from excessive dirt, trash, waste; clean immediate surrounding environment

Penalties for Violations:

Seizure of Dogs is Authorized (section 372) Seized Dogs cannot be returned except upon proof that shelter in compliance with the law is being provided

First Offense: Fine - \$50-\$100

Second and Subsequent Offenses: Fine - \$100-\$250

Judge can reduce fine by amount owner or custodian proves he or she spent to correct deficiencies in shelter Beginning 72 hours after a charge of a violation, each day that an owner does not provide adequate shelter to a dog still left outdoors in inclement weather constitutes a separate violation