

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

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## **The Best Place for Pets is Inside During Cold Weather**

Okaloosa County Public Safety and Animal Services and Humane Services at PAWS would like to remind pet owners that during this cold weather the best place for our furry and feathered friends is indoors. Low temperatures, winds and precipitation can lead to illness and death.

If a Florida room is used to house pets, please give your pet an area raised off the floor and a blanket to keep warm. If the animal cannot be brought inside, please provide them with a safe dry shelter with a blanket or hay. Since it will be important for a dog to retain body heat, a wind flap on the dog house door will keep some of the cold air out.

Be a pet advocate and persuade others to bring pets inside. Anytime a dog is in need of a caring friend, become the dog's advocate. Speak to the owner, if that fails to improve the situation or if the animal is in distress, please call Animal Control at 685-6003 right away. It does not take a long time for companion animals to suffer and fall victim to severe cold weather.

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