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PROTECT PETS FROM WINTER WEATHER

The Seattle Humane Society Urges Pet Owners to Take Precautions

BELLEVUE, WA (January 23, 2007) – With temperatures expected to continue dropping, the Seattle Humane Society offers some winter insights to pet lovers.

“Pets belong inside with the rest of the family,” said Brenda Barnette, chief executive officer for the Seattle Humane Society. “Don’t be fooled into thinking that their fur coats will prevent them from getting too cold or suffering from frostbite!”

If your pet is outside for a little “winter sport,” keep these helpful tips in mind:

◆ **DRESS APPROPRIATELY**

Don’t clip your pet’s coat too short as it provides a layer of insulation against the cold. If you have a short haired dog, get him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

◆ **INCREASE FOOD SUPPLY**

If your dog enjoys a lot of outside time, increase his food supply, particularly protein, to keep him- and his fur- in tip-top shape.

◆ **BEWARE OF SEASONAL POISONS**

Coolant and antifreeze are lethal poisons for dogs and cats. Wipe your dog’s paws after walks outside. Clean up any spills from your vehicle. Similarly, be sure to wipe off your dog’s legs and stomach when he comes in out of the rain, sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws.

◆ **OFFER WARM SLEEPING SPOT**

Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

◆ **SAVE A LIFE BY TAPPING ON YOUR HOOD**

Outdoor cats will climb under the hoods of cars for warmth, so be safe and bang loudly on your car’s hood before starting the engine to give any sleeping cats a chance to vacate.

For more information, please call (425) 641-0080 or visit www.seattlehumane.org.

The Seattle Humane Society has been protecting people and pets since 1897. Visit in person at 13212 SE Eastgate Way in Bellevue, or online at www.seattlehumane.org to learn more.

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