Caddo Sheriff urges pet owners to prepare for wintery conditions

Tuesday, January 7, 2025
Posted by Breck Scott

It is a common misconception that dogs and cats are more resistant to cold weather than humans due to their fur; however, this is not true, according to Caddo Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, Sr. Pets are still at risk of hypothermia, frostbite, and even death in extreme cold.

As unusually frigid conditions approach the area, Sheriff Whitehorn is warning pet owners that leaving animals outside in extreme weather without food, water, and shelter can be considered neglect and even a crime. “It’s neglect, plain and simple,” he stated. “I strongly recommend that if you have a pet that usually stays outdoors, you find a safe and warm place for them now. As the saying goes, if it’s too cold for you, it’s too cold for them.”

To protect pets during cold weather, the Sheriff advises pet owners to:

1. Provide proper shelter indoors or in a garage.
2. Remove common poisons like antifreeze, which have a sweet taste that can be deadly to pets.
3. Be aware that warm engines in parked cars can attract cats and small wildlife. To prevent injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

The Caddo Sheriff’s Office will be monitoring the winter weather conditions during the upcoming event and will post any necessary emergency announcements on their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Attachments

