



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**Troy Animal Shelter Coalition, Inc. / Pike Animal Shelter
reminds owners to bring pets indoors, protect animals and livestock from severe cold**

TROY, Ala – Weather forecasts for south Alabama call for bitterly cold temperatures, and Troy Animal Shelter Coalition, Inc. / Pike Animal Shelter leaders encourage animal owners to take precautions to protect animals. Pets should be brought indoors if possible.

If animals such as feral cats must be left outdoors, provide dry, draft-free shelter large enough for the animal to sit and lie down but small enough to hold in body heat. The floor should be raised off the ground and covered with shavings or straw. Turn the shelter away from the wind and cover the doorway with heavy plastic or burlap. Insulate the shelter if possible with hay bales or other materials.

All animals need additional food to generate energy and warmth, and owners should ensure that water bowls are not frozen. Use plastic rather than metal bowls to prevent animals' tongues from sticking to the bowls in the severe cold.

Antifreeze is a sweet-tasting but deadly poison for animals, and any spills should be cleaned up immediately.

The Alabama State Agricultural Response Team advises that livestock and large animals need shelter; plenty of dry bedding to insulate vulnerable udders, genitals and legs from the frozen ground and frigid winds; windbreaks; and plenty of food and unfrozen water. Extra time should be taken to observe livestock. Animals suffering from frostbite do not exhibit pain, and it may be up to two weeks before freeze-damaged tissue starts to slough away. These injuries should be treated as open wounds and a veterinarian should be consulted.