



## COLD WEATHER PREPARATION TIPS FOR SHELTERS

*NOTE: Even if animals are housed indoors, consider the lack of insulation of your buildings and what that will mean if your shelter loses power for hours or for days! Also, think about what may happen if winter storms become severe and road conditions become hazardous, which will delay your staff's routines.*

ZONE/AREA	TIPS
Kennel Area Heating & Insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Use insulated tarps to wrap any outside areas exposed to cold</li><li>● Tarps can be held in place by zip ties or bungee cords, and if they are extra long in length, the bottoms can be held in place by wood blocks or other heavy objects</li><li>● If working with large open areas, consider where you might be able to section off an indoor space with tarps or shower curtains where body heat is concentrated</li><li>● Hang heating lamps on top of kennel areas and place space heaters in the middle of sectioned off spaces, such as kennel walkways (all of these devices can be shut off when employees leave for the day, if there are safety concerns)</li></ul>
Enclosure Insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Line kennel flooring with <b>straw</b> (which dries much quicker than hay)</li><li>● In the absence of straw, wood mulch can be a substitute</li><li>● If you have access to plastic barrels or dog houses, line the insides with straw and use trash bags and/or duct tape to cover cracks or small openings (see image on right)</li><li>● If you have guillotine doors separating kennels into indoor/outdoor zones, consider lining the outsides of the guillotine doors with straw, hay, or mulch to prevent a draft</li></ul>
Animal Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Collect several days of clean water in plastic drums or gallons for emergency water storage</li><li>● Leave extra bowl of food and water in each animal enclosure before staff leave for the day</li></ul>





# HUMAN ANIMAL SUPPORT SERVICES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create mini waste stations with rake-style waste scoops and only spot clean enclosures</li></ul>
Facility & Vehicle Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If ice is a concern, pour cat litter in driveways and parking lots</li><li>• If key supplies or vehicles are stored behind gates, consider the possibility of locks freezing or power outages (if gates are electric) and if you should park ACO trucks outside of them</li></ul>
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issue donation plea for sweaters, dog houses, cat houses, other warm supplies for outdoor living animals</li><li>• Issue press release and social media campaign push for short-term winter storm fosters</li></ul>