

December 8, 2011

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

The arrival of winter and the holiday season can be accompanied by health hazards for your animals. Some health risks can be brought into the home inadvertently, thereby increasing your pets' possibility to exposure. The Burleson Animal Shelter wants to help you make this holiday season safe, fun and enjoyable for you and your pets.

Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure your pet always wears ID tags. The Burleson Animal Shelter will implant your pet with a microchip for \$15, regardless of where you reside. The microchip has a unique identification number that links the pet to the owner's information.

Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws. The paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk.

Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him, and his fur, in tip-top shape.

Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.

In addition to these tips, take into consideration that many parades end with traditional festivities such as Christmas tree lightings and fireworks. It is best to keep your furry friends inside as the loud noises may frighten them. Your dog's ears may be up to 10 times more sensitive than a human's and the loud noises may really frighten them. Make sure your fence is adequately secured or if it is not please consider putting your pet in your garage or house in a kennel or crate where they are safe and comfortable.

For more information or to microchip your pet, call the Burleson Animal Shelter at 817-426-9283. Shelter hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. The shelter is located at 775 S.E. John Jones Dr.