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Final Preps Before Winter Storm Hits

Cruelty Investigations and Injured Animal Ambulance Will Remain in Service with Modified Schedule

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HOUSTON (January 20, 2025)— Final preparations are taking place today at the Houston SPCA in anticipation of the winter storm expected to descend on the greater Houston area. The animal rescue and protection organization will:



- Close their campus early at 5 p.m. today including the Adoption Center, Rehoming Center, Foster Care Center and Wildlife Center. Normal operations will return on Wednesday morning.
- Houston SPCA Animal Care Team will stay on campus during the winter storm to care for more than 500 animals including injured wildlife.
- Animal cruelty investigations and injured animal ambulance will continue services on a modified schedule when roads are safe for travel.
- Equine and farm animals have been brought inside the Equine Rescue Center where they have been given extra hay for warmth in their stalls and horses will be given electrolytes for hydration.

The Houston SPCA offers a few reminders to pet owners about the [Safe Outdoor Dogs Act](#):

Provide MORE: Food, Water and Shelter: Pets should consume 25 to 50 percent more calories than usual because the cold weather tends to deplete their energy. All companion animals should not be outdoors during freezing temperatures.

Exercise Care with Cats, Canines and Cars: In the winter, the interior of an idle car can act as a refrigerator, so never leave pets in a car. Keep your cats indoors during inclement weather as they may seek refuge in a car's engine block. *Give an outdoor cat a chance to escape by banging loudly on the car hood before starting your car.*

Recognize Signs of Distress: If you see a companion animal with signs of hypothermia including shallow breathing, weakness, lethargy and shivering, bring them inside immediately and contact your veterinarian.

Equine: Be sure horses have access to a barn or a three-sided structure with a roof to escape the wind and cold if needed. While not all horses need to be blanketed, blankets will help horses keep warm and dry, especially during a winter storm. Frequently check water troughs and buckets to ensure the water is not frozen. Horses should have unlimited forage during extreme cold to help them increase and regulate their body temperatures.

The community is encouraged to call 713-869-7722 (SPCA) if they see an animal in immediate distress or report cruelty at HoustonSPCA.org.

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