



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 22, 2026

Great Plains SPCA Urges Pet Owners to Keep Animals Safe as Record-Breaking Cold, Ice, and Snow Approach

Merriam, KS – With record-breaking cold temperatures expected to begin Friday, January 23, and ice and snow forecasted through the weekend, Great Plains SPCA is urging pet owners to take immediate action to protect their animals from life-threatening conditions. Prolonged exposure to extreme cold can quickly lead to hypothermia, frostbite, and even death, especially for pets left outdoors.

“Pets should never be left outside in freezing or sub-zero temperatures,” said Tam Singer, CEO of Great Plains SPCA. “If it feels dangerously cold to you, it is just as dangerous for your pet, no matter how much fur they have. Bringing pets indoors during this weather is critical.”

Great Plains SPCA’s Cold Weather Safety Recommendations:

- **Bring Pets Indoors:** Provide a warm, dry, indoor space, especially overnight.
- **Limit Outdoor Time:** Take pets outside only for brief bathroom breaks.
- **Provide Extra Food & Fresh Water:** Cold weather increases energy needs; ensure water is not frozen.
- **Watch for Signs of Hypothermia:** Shivering, lethargy, weakness, and pale gums are warning signs. Seek veterinary care immediately.

In response to the forecast, Great Plains SPCA is distributing **Bring Pets Inside Kits**, which include supplies to help pet owners keep animals warm and safe during extreme cold. Kits will be available for pick-up at Great Plains SPCA in Merriam beginning **Friday, January 23**. Kits are available by appointment only, while supplies last. To schedule an appointment, reach out to our HERO team at HERO@greatplainssPCA.org or call 913-742-7327. **If you see a dog in distress, please call 911 immediately.**

For more information on cold weather pet safety, Bring Pets Inside Kits, visit www.greatplainssPCA.org.

MEDIA CONTACT: Tam Singer, CEO, Great Plains SPCA, (615) 578-3723, tsinger@greatplainssPCA.org, Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy and Engagement 913-808-3296, hmaranda@greatplainssPCA.org

About Great Plains SPCA

Great Plains SPCA is the highest rated animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 500,000 residents and 7,000 community pets annually. Great Plains SPCA works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior training. Great Plains SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit www.greatplainssPCA.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).