



## **How to Protect Animals During a Cold Spell**

Your pets and livestock depend on you to take the right steps when it's just plain ugly outside. Our Pipestone Clinic veterinarians offer the following list of precautions.

### **Outdoor pets handle the weather better with help**

Dr. Nicole Weber cautions you to do these things for pets living outdoors:

- ✓ Offer adequate protection for the elements.
- ✓ Provide fresh water at all times.
- ✓ Ensure outdoor pets have adequate food to sustain body heat when temperatures drop.

### **Watch for signs your outdoor pet should visit the Vet Clinic**

- ✓ Check feet for cracking or signs of frostbite.
- ✓ Observe delicate ears for frostbite signs.
- ✓ If a pet gets wet, dry it as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

### **Harsh weather is tough on indoor/outdoor pets, too**

- ✓ Limit extended periods of time outdoors for dogs not acclimated to snow and cold.
- ✓ Consider dog coats or boots, which provide protection if your dog will agree to wear them.
- ✓ If anything about your pet looks abnormal, call 507-825-4211!

### **Cold conditions change the equation in hog barns**

Pipestone Clinic veterinarians advise you to walk through your barns, with a purpose, every day.

- ✓ Make sure shutters are working, with all louvre in proper position.
- ✓ Since pipes could freeze in these conditions, don't assume waterers are working.
- ✓ Because curtains sometimes sag under the weight of snow and ice, scan those every day.
- ✓ Double-check heaters and all moving parts within your buildings—don't assume equipment will work flawlessly when temperatures dip below zero.
- ✓ Strike a balance between humidity and air movement using your fans.
- ✓ If you aren't sure what humidity level you're shooting for, contact your Pipestone Clinic vet.

### **Production animals outdoors need attention, too**

- ✓ Encourage your livestock to keep coming to water sources.
- ✓ And, make sure waterers are functioning, not snow-packed; floats can easily get hung-up on ice chunks.