

As most people would agree, it is best to bring your pets inside during extreme temperatures. However, according to the law, pet owners are not legally obligated to bring pets indoors



due to weather conditions. Sometimes Animal Services receives calls from citizens who are concerned about a neighbor's pet(s) being left outside in extreme weather. When we receive these calls, we follow the procedures below:

- First, we will attempt to make contact with the owner to investigate the complaint and check on the animal(s).
- Since we are legally prohibited from seizing an animal that is left outside during extreme weather conditions, we check to make sure that the animal has a proper shelter and explain the risks of keeping pets outside to its owner. We encourage all residents to bring their animals inside especially during extreme temperatures.
- If we have probable cause to believe an animal is in immediate danger we will work with the police to obtain a warrant.

Below is the relevant ordinances regarding this issue:

6-47—Prohibited actions against animals.

A person commits an offense if:

A person fails to provide an animal under control and/or ownership with adequate wholesome food and water, proper shelter and protection from inclement weather, and veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering;

The definition of “adequate/proper shelter” means a structure for a dog that shall effectively protect the animal from any form of cold, overheating, inclement weather, and direct effects of wind, rain, snow, ice, or the sun. By way of example, and not limitation, a shelter may consist of a three-sided structure, with a roof and solid floor raised off of the ground. The shelter shall be shaded during hot weather months and dry bedding shall be provided for insulation against freezing weather.

Please contact Flower Mound Animal Services at 972.874.6390 or email at animalservices@flower-mound.com.

After hours please contact The Flower Mound Police Department at 972.539.0525.

