

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

January 2018

It's the law! Bring dogs indoors during hazardous weather warnings

Under Delaware law ([Title 16, Chapter 30F](#)), dogs cannot be left outdoors during hazardous weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Pet owners should plan pet-safe accommodations, store extra pet food, and have crates and bedding ready, says the Division of Public Health's (DPH) Office of Animal Welfare (OAW).

The law requires dogs to have protection from rain, ice, snow, wind, and extreme cold. A warm house with a flap and clean, dry bedding preserves their body heat and helps them remain dry. State law requires dogs to have clean, moisture-resistant bedding, and additional bedding and protection for temperatures 35°F (1.7°C) or lower. OAW recommends straw bedding because it does not hold moisture like cedar chips or old towels. While cats are not covered under the same law, outdoor felines need the same winter accommodations.

Short-haired dogs and other breeds that are not acclimated to Delaware's outdoor temperatures



cannot be kept in outdoor facilities unless a licensed veterinarian approves of it.

Ideally, all pets

should be indoors. If you're cold, they're cold. While many believe dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, this is untrue. Like people, dogs and cats are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept inside. For more information, read OAW's *PawPrints* newsletters at: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/oaw/oawhome.html>. Report animal cruelty or neglect to Delaware Animal Services at 302-255-4646 or for non-emergencies, complete an online form at: <https://animalservices.delaware.gov>.



Public invited to get flu vaccinations at Legislative Hall on January 17

DPH's Community Health Services section is hosting a public flu clinic on January 17, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Legislative Hall Library at 411 Legislative Ave. in Dover, DE.

Delawareans 6 months of age and older can receive free flu vaccinations. Adults should bring a photo ID for admittance to Legislative Hall. Free street and lot parking is available.

"Getting your annual flu vaccine is still your first and best line of defense against the influenza virus," said DPH Director Dr. Karyl Rattay. Also wash hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers; and cover sneezes and coughs with a tissue or sneeze or cough into your inner elbow. Those who are sick should stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours, with a temperature of less than 100° F (37.8° C), without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Reminder!

DPH wants your feedback about this newsletter. Take a customer satisfaction survey by January 31 by visiting this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6PQXGGC>

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