



February 2011

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Beckett & Associates Veterinary Services, LLC online pet store allows you to buy all your pet supplies instantly and at your own convenience. We offer everything from pet health products, to toys and treats.

No time to go to the pet store, that's okay [Order Online](#) and have your pet supplies delivered to your home.



As this brutal New England winter continues, Beckett & Associates would like to share some interesting and timely articles with you.



**Contact
Beckett & Associates
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860-659-0848
1269 Main St

Managing Barns and Buildings During the Winter

Glastonbury, CT 06033

Office Hours

Monday - Friday:
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday:
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24-hour Large Animal
Emergency Coverage



Pet Angels provides animal lovers a direct link to local rescues in Connecticut. Our Pet Lost & Found allows users to search for their lost pet or post a found animal. Visitors can also put up their animals for adoption.

Pet Angels was created by Beckett and Associates Veterinary Services, LLC and is a free service to those looking to adopt or rescue their next – or first – pet.

Visit [Pet Angels](#) to find out more

Courtesy of AAEP's publication: The Horse
by: Erica Larson, News Editor
February 01 2011, Article # 17700

In many states, snow and winter go hand in hand. Unfortunately, the freezing temperatures that accompany them can lead to some serious problems for the horse owner: frozen water pipes, slippery turnout conditions, and even buildings collapsing. Last week an indoor arena and a horse barn both collapsed under the stress of snow in Connecticut. No people was injured in the arena collapse, but two champion harness racing horses turned broodmares had to be euthanized as a result of their injuries after being trapped in the rubble of the barn.

According to Jenifer Nadeau, MS, PhD, a University of Connecticut equine extension specialist, and Larry D. Jacobson, MS, PhD, of the University of Minnesota, horse owners and farm managers can take certain steps to make their barns and other structures safe from winter's fury.

"Before winter arrives, ensure that any new roof has been built according to the building code, the roof is structurally sound, has its shingles intact so that they do not blow off creating leaks or a danger to animals, and consider installation of snow slides that can help remove snow," Nadeau said, adding that while a snow slide might scare the horses at first, it will prevent the snow from building up on the roof.

"In an area housing horses, we need to have minimum amount of airflow to maintain good air quality year round," Jacobson said. "That's the only way to remove excess moisture from the barn and keep the barn free of gasses, like ammonia." Excess moisture can weaken wooden structures.

"Also, keep gutters clean and free of debris to prevent ice buildup leading to ice dams and roof damage," Nadeau added.

She also suggests having an evacuation plan and practicing what to do in the event of a roof collapse.

Once winter has arrived, Nadeau said, "keep drives clear of snow so that emergency vehicles can access the property." She added that walkways for both humans and horses should be kept free and clear of ice and snow accumulation.

"Typically the snow load isn't too much of a problem for buildings with metal roofs because it tends to slide off when the temperature warms up a little," Jacobson said, adding that it's common for snow to only remain on a roof for a few days. "There might be some situations where we get freezing rain and the snow falls on top of that, but that will also slide off when it gets a little warmer.

"But most structures are safe for 20 to 25 pounds of snow loading per square foot, with some of the newer constructions being good for probably 30 to 35 pounds per square foot," he continued, noting that buildings in warmer climates might have a lower snow tolerance than those built in northern climates that receive a large amount of snow each year. He said it would take "several feet of snow" to approach the limits in northern barns.

Both Nadeau and Jacobson suggest hiring a professional to remove snow from the roof if concern arises that it might be at risk for collapse. Visual changes in the structure and cracking or squeaking noises might indicate the roof is under stress, said Jacobson.

Jacobson noted that the buildings typically at greatest risk of suffering a collapse are ones with large spans between supports, such as indoor arenas.

Farm managers and owners should assure that unfrozen water sources are available throughout the winter in case of a barn fire.

Cold Weather Colic in Horses

by: Agricultural Communications, Texas A&M University System
January 28 2011, Article # 17625

Cold winds and changing winter weather might not seem like contributing factors for equine colic; however, these conditions can foster changes in routine and eating habits that could affect your horse's well-being.

"A common wintertime equine health concern is colic," notes Glennon Mays, DVM, clinical associate professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Colic is a symptom

of abdominal pain and can take the form of digestive problems, intestinal blockage, or a twisted intestine among other possibilities.

"There are several reasons why horses tend to colic more as the winter months linger," explains Mays. "Lack of quality grazing, too cold water, and reduced exercise time can contribute to equine colic."

Spring's lush green pastures provide grass containing moisture that is absorbed in the gut and adds wet fiber to more readily move food along your horse's digestive tract. When there is no green grass to graze, the possibility for impaction increases, explains Mays. Keep quality hay in front of your horse to provide roughage. The horse's digestive tract is designed for high-volume food such as grass and hay, and these should be fed before grain.

"When temperatures drop, the tendency is to increase your horse's grain rations to meet the increased energy demands to stay warm. However, increased carbohydrates can upset your horse's digestive tract. When temperatures drop, feed extra hay, not grain, since hay provides more efficient 'heating fuel' for your horse," says Mays.

"Roughage quality and availability may negatively affect a horse's intake and digestion," Mays continues. "Coarse, dry grazing or baled roughage can result in soft tissue abrasions inside the horse's mouth during the chewing process. This seemingly minor trauma can result in a horse's compromised ability to grind feedstuff due to soreness in the mouth."

Adequate water consumption also is essential for your horse's well-being. Horses tend to consume less water in colder weather since lower temperatures decrease their desire for water. However, they still need 10-12 gallons of water daily depending on work load. Also, if the temperature of their water source is below 45 degrees, horses tend to consume less water.

Insufficient water intake can result in dehydration and decreased blood volume (resulting in fewer nutrients to cells and decreased efficiency of waste removal). When water intake is decreased, the chances increase that your horse's intestines could become impacted and colic can then occur, explains Mays.

Cold Weather Tips for Pets

Courtesy of the ASPCA

Brrrr—it's cold outside! The following guidelines will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

1. Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.
2. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.
3. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm, dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.
4. Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.
5. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk. Own a short-haired breed? Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
6. Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.
7. Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs, and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If your puppy appears to be sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him

inside. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.

8. Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him, and his fur, in tip-top shape.
9. Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Visit the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) more information.
10. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.
11. Download the ASPCA's PetWeather iPhone and Android App for free. The ASPCA's [PetWeather App](#) lets you know at a glance what kind of weather your furry friend can expect for your location, and will alert you if weather conditions make it uncomfortable or even dangerous for your pets to be outside.

**The doctors and staff at Beckett Vet hope
everyone has a warm, safe winter!**

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