

Keep outdoor pets safe and warm

Winter weather can be both uncomfortable and dangerous for pets that spend a majority of their time outdoors. January and February are often the coldest months of the year, so it is important to be prepared to keep pets comfortable and safe during the cold temperatures.

Cold weather affects pets the same way it does people, said Dr. Christine Rutter, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. She recommends bringing pets inside whenever it is cold enough that people feel uncomfortable outside. If pets are left in the cold with no protection, serious health issues can occur.

"The majority of cold weather related illnesses have to do with exposure to the cold itself," Rutter said. "In some climates, generalized hypothermia and frostbite of toes, ears, lips, the nose, and the tail can certainly occur."

She said that hypothermia may cause pets to seem mentally dull or antisocial while frostbite shows up as swollen, red lesions. Frostbite does not occur at a specific temperature but rather results from a combination of cold weather, heat loss and decreased blood flow.

According to Rutter, some pets are especially sensitive to cold weather, including older animals, newborn animals, underweight and small animals and those with shaved fur.

If it is not possible to bring a pet into the house during cold weather, there are several options for keeping them safe and warm. Rutter recommends using a garage or mud room for a pet shelter, as long as any trash and hazardous chemicals are inaccessible. She also said a

small shelter, such as a dog house, can be filled with bedding to keep the animal warm.

"The key is that it has a small entrance and exit and that it's protected from water, wind and drafts," Rutter said. "It's very important that if you provide your pet with a heat source, that it not be a fire, carbon monoxide or anything that could be an electrocution risk."

She recommends using rice or oat bags that have been warmed, as long as they are not hot enough to cause burns.

Rutter also reminds pet owners that some common winter items, including sidewalk salt, de-icing fluids and chemicals for winterizing pipes, can be toxic to dogs and cats.

If a pet will be outside for a short period of time, such as for exercise, owners can take several steps to ensure the pet stays warm and comfortable. Rutter advises drying pets off after exercise, protecting their feet with boots or a waxy layer and dressing them in a coat to help with heat retention.

Even if you do not have a pet that stays outside, you can help keep stray animals and neighbors' pets safe during the winter. Rutter said temporary shelters can be made out of storage bins or travel kennels. She also recommends banging on car hoods before starting the engine, because cats may have crawled under the hood for warmth.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu.



LCCC AMBASSADOR AWARD — The Laurens County Chamber of Commerce is honored to announce Amelia Mitchell, Business Development Specialist at Founders Federal Credit Union, as the recipient of the LCCC Ambassador of the 3rd Quarter Award. Amelia has been an Ambassador for the past year, voted in by the Chamber board and selected as the Quarterly winner by her Ambassador peers. Amelia is often a smiling face at our Chamber events and a great supporter of our initiatives. Pictured are Amanda Munyan (LCCC President and CEO), Amelia Mitchell and John Young (LCCC Chair) at the Chamber board meeting on Oct. 23.

Students named to President's List at BJU

The following students are among approximately 550 Bob Jones University students named to the President's List for high academic achievement during the Fall 2018 semester.

To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average for the semester.

Yesica Garcia, a Junior Criminal Justice major of Fountain Inn; Daniel Quigley, a Junior Cinema Production major of Fountain Inn; and Shelby Ziemer, a Junior Mathematics Education major of Fountain Inn, were named to the President's List at Bob Jones University for the Fall 2018 semester.

Located in Greenville, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health sciences, and business.

BJU has nearly 3,000 students from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. We are committed to the truth of Scripture and to pursuing excellence in all we do.

Sullivan Dunklin NSDAR meets

Carolyn Miller, author and teacher of genealogy, was the speaker at the December meeting of the Sullivan Dunklin NSDAR. Polly Hellams, Molly McDannald, and Kathryn Simmons were hostesses for the meeting at the Octagon House.

Guests were Sharon Benjamin, a prospective member, Judy Justice, District III Director, and Carolyn Miller, guest speaker.

Regent Malinda Chalmers presided and led the group in the Ritual. She also gave the President General's message that was about the Fox River DAR Chapter of Illinois, the winner of the 2017 American Spirit (DAR magazine) Contest. The message also emphasized the role that DAR daughters played in patriotic service during World War I. Nov. 11, 2018,

marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. November is also Native American Heritage Month.

Peggy Lee's National Defense message was about the President establishing the United States Space Force to protect air space.

Speaker Carolyn Miller's topic was "Words Have Meaning." She emphasized that one word can make a difference to prospective and current DAR members. Her other suggestions for DAR revitalization included marketing, discussion at social gatherings, business cards to inform people, community involvement, and a tea to acquaint new members with the chapter. She also suggested a new member induction ceremony, engaging the new members in chapter activities, a DAR website, and a newsletter.

The meeting ended with a prayer for the sick, and the singing of "God Bless America."

The next meeting will be on Feb. 7.

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