

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAPPS Provides Snow Emergency Advice to Pet Parents Along the Rockies

Emergency Planning is Essential for Pet Parents

Increasingly low temperatures and precipitation can lead to snow and ice storms events that can be extremely dangerous for household pets. As the first big snowstorm of the season hits the Intermountain West, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a national nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, encourages pet parents along the Rocky Mountain Range to take precautions to protect the lives of their pets.

“Preparation is essential, especially before the first big snowstorm of the season,” said John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.

“Snowstorms may be an inconvenience, but they can be very dangerous for the pets of unprepared pet parents.”

It is important to gain familiarity with winter storm warning messages. Program local weather/radio stations into your cell phone. You may wish to obtain a NOAA Weather Radio to monitor severe weather. NAPPS provides a direct link for local NOAA’s weather alerts at <http://www.petsitters.org/>. Know how the public is warned (siren, radio, TV, etc.) and the warning terms for each kind of emergency in your community. Learn about the signs of typical winter related issues for pets, such as hypothermia, and maintain a first aid manual for animals and a portable first aid kit.

Stock an emergency supply of food and water for yourself and your pets. If you or your pets are on a medication regimen, be sure to always have at least a two-week supply on hand.

Additional Safety Tips to Prepare for a Snowstorm:

- Be prepared for isolation at home, particularly if you live in a rural area. It is possible that a severe winter storm could isolate you for one or two weeks.
- Avoid leaving animals outside or confined to areas with hard surfaces (e.g., in garages).
- Keep your car winterized with antifreeze and a full tank of gas. Carry a winter care kit that includes food and water, a windshield scraper, a flashlight with extra batteries, a tow chain or rope, a shovel, tire chains, a blanket, a bag of sand, a fluorescent distress flag and emergency flares. If you have to travel, keep a supply of high-energy foods, candles and matches with you. Keep extra mittens, hats, boots, socks, and outerwear in the car. If you routinely take your pet in the car, be sure to keep extra blankets in the car to keep the pet warm.
- After the storm, check on your neighbors and their animals. Make sure they have proper heating and sufficient supplies to get them through the emergency.

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NAPPS provides a comprehensive guide to emergency planning for pet parents at its website: www.petsitters.org/cfincludes/MemberCenter/pdfs/DPPetOwner.pdf

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national nonprofit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as "the most respected authority in professional pet sitting." It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide "Pet Sitter Locator" at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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