



1555 East 10th Street

Erie, PA 16511

814-451-0230

www.theannashelter.com

Outdoor Care for Animals

Summer Care for the Outdoor Animal:

***For dogs and cats:** MUST ALWAYS have shelter from the rain, snow and winds and shade from the hot summer sun (dog house must be placed in the shade-not in direct sunlight).

***For livestock:** Proper shelter for livestock would be access to an open barn, three sided lean to with a roof, or a run in and off the side of the barn. The shelter should face east, away from incoming weather. A tree line is not adequate shelter by Pennsylvania law! There are no specifications in the PA Animal Cruelty Laws in regards to size of pasture or shelter-the shelter must accommodate the number of animals you have.

*All animals MUST ALWAYS have access to water at all times-no excuses! **Secure water container** so it cannot tip or be knocked over (use a bungee cord to secure to a fence/post/tree, surround water container with cinderblocks or place water inside a tire, dig a hole in the ground and place water container inside).

***Animal's living area must be kept clean and sanitary** (worms). Deworm your pet regularly and treat your pet with a proper monthly flea preventative from your veterinarian.

*If your animal is kept on a chain, the chain must be at least 3 times the length of the animal's body at all times and cannot tangle on anything nor kink up, thus shortening the chain. **Swivels on either end of the chain** will ensure it will not kink. Tie the animal out on a **level** area so animal cannot fall off and hang itself. If more than one animal in an area, make sure they cannot reach each other to get wrapped around each other and strangle to death.

Winter Care for the Outdoor Animal:

***For dogs and cats:** A proper and adequate **dog house that is airtight and up off the ground several inches** must be provided. The dog house must have a solid roof and floor and four solid sides. The opening should be just wide enough for the animal to gain entry. The dog **MUST** have hay, straw, or cedar chips as bedding and a **flap** (rubber mud flap, tarp, shower liner, etc.) must be affixed to the dog house door to keep the heat inside the dog house. Soft beddings (blankets, pillows, or dog beds) should not be used as they can become wet and freeze and could become entangled in the chain. The dog house should face east, away from the incoming weather.

* **Check their water several times daily**, in case of freezing, or purchase a heated water bowl (at any feed mill or tractor supply store).

*An animal outside in the winter should be provided with a heavier diet to withstand the colder weather-
your animals food should be doubled!

The dangers of chaining, tethering, or confining your dog:

* Dogs are naturally social beings who need interaction with humans and/or other animals. Intensive confinement or long-term restraint can severely damage their physical and psychological well-being. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained or intensively confined in any way, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive.

It is common for continuously tethered dogs to endure physical ailments as a result of being continuously tethered. Their necks can become raw and sore, and their collars can painfully grow into their skin. They are vulnerable to insect bites and parasites, and are at high risk of entanglement, strangulation, and harassment or attacks by other dogs or people.

Tethered dogs may also suffer from irregular feedings, overturned water bowls, inadequate veterinary care and extreme temperatures. During snow storms, these dogs often have no access to shelter. During periods of extreme heat, they may not receive adequate water or protection from the sun. Owners who chain their dogs are less likely to clean the area of confinement, causing the dogs to eat and sleep in an area contaminated with urine and feces. What's more, because their often neurotic behavior makes them difficult to approach, chained dogs are rarely given even minimal affection. Tethered dogs may become "part of the scenery" and can be easily ignored by their owners.

Surrendering your pet to The ANNA Shelter:

If you feel you are unable to care for your pet(s), you are able to relinquish them to the ANNA Shelter, and in most cases, at no cost. You may notify the ANNA Shelter of your intention at (814)-451-0230, bring photo identification with you and arrive at least 60 minutes before the shelter closes.

-Monday and Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

-Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

-Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm