

PROPER SHELTER

“HELP, NOT HURT”

(609)263-3532 | Companionaanj@outlook.com | www.TheCanineCorner.org



PROPER SHELTER

New Jersey has strict laws for proper shelter. It is illegal to maintain a domestic animal outside in adverse weather conditions without proper shelter in order to maintain proper body heat (hot or cold) or protect themselves. Violators can be found guilty of a "disorderly persons offense" and fined up to \$1,000.

N.J.S.A. 4:22-17 et seq., The legal requirements set forth in the Act apply to any individual who owns or has custody or control ("caretaker") of a dog, service animal or an animal that is a pet. However, an animal cruelty act may be considered a misdemeanor or felony depending on the facts.



Adverse Weather Conditions In Winter/Cold?

COLD - a temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, or wind, rain, snow, ice, sleet or hail that a person should reasonably know would pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the animal based on the animal's size, age, physical condition or thickness of the animal's hair or fur for more than ½ hour. N.J.S.A. 4:22-17.1



What is Proper Shelter?

Provides adequate ventilation to allow the animal to remain dry and maintain its normal body temperature, with access to clean liquid water (not frozen), exposure to natural or artificial light in a regular cycle of day and night, sufficient space for the animal to easily turn around in a full circle and lie down on its side with limbs outstretched, and enough room so the animal's head cannot touch the ceiling of the shelter when the animal is in a normal sitting position



Adverse Weather Conditions In Summer/Heat?

COLD - a temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, or wind, rain, snow, ice, sleet or hail that a person should reasonably know would pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the animal based on the animal's size, age, physical condition or thickness of the animal's hair or fur for more than ½ hour. N.J.S.A. 4:22-17.1



What about waste, debris, and moisture?

The shelter also must be maintained to minimize the accumulation of waste, debris, precipitation, or other moisture inside, around, and underneath the area of the shelter, and to provide protection from flooding. The shelter should be constructed to prevent the sagging or collapse of any part and be maintained with no exposed sharp points or edges; remaining in an upright position at all time.

PROPER SHELTER – PAGE 2

“HELP, NOT HURT”

(609)263-3532 | Companionaanj@outlook.com | www.TheCanineCorner.org



Unique to Cold Weather

Under the COLD adverse environmental conditions set forth above, the shelter should be enclosed, with a solid roof and walls with a single opening no larger than necessary to allow the animal to comfortably enter and exit the structure, and a floor that is not the ground, and insulation, dry bedding, and a windbreak (flap) at the entrance that are sufficient to keep the animal dry and maintain the animal's normal body temperature.



What if the house has a doggie door?

Any part of the residence of the animal's owner or other person with custody or control of an animal shall be "Proper Shelter" if the part of the residence and the use thereof are in compliance with the requirements set forth above.



What if the person is outside with the animal?

The above requirements of "Proper Shelter" shall not apply if any person, including the animal's owner or person with custody or control of the animal is with the animal and in the same adverse environmental conditions or can see the animal at all times.



Unique to Hot Weather

Under the HEAT adverse environmental conditions set forth above, the shelter should provide the animal with adequate shade or other cooling area by natural or artificial means (such as a fan) to allow the animal to maintain a normal body temperature



IT IS ILLEGAL TO HAVE AN ANIMAL OUTSIDE IN ADVERSE WEATHER FOR MORE THAN ½ HOUR WITHOUT PROPER SHELTER, UNLESS YOU ARE WITH THEM THE ENTIRE TIME.

