

# CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<b>Title</b>	<b>Extreme Weather Protection for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>CIR-17-03</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>March 10, 2017</b>
<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>May 22, 2017</b>
<b>Related to:</b>	GO-SPT-302.01 (Calls for Police Service) GO-SPT-401.01 (Field Reporting System) GO-OPS-401.07 (Animal Complaints and Reporting Animal Bitings)

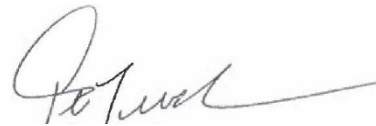
## PURPOSE

The Council of the District of Columbia has enacted the “Extreme Weather Protection for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017.” This Act requires that dog owners provide appropriate protective shelter for dogs during cold weather emergencies. The purpose of this circular is to inform members about this Act and the requirements imposed on dog owners.

	<b>Dog Shelters</b>
Prohibits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A dog owner is prohibited from leaving his or her dog outside without protection from the weather during “cold emergency alerts” as declared by the Mayor.</li> </ul>
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Protection from the weather” means providing access to a shelter that is suitable for the age, condition, size, and type of each dog by doing the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accounting for the space needed for each dog, and ensuring that the space protects the dog from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, the adverse effects of cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health; and</li> <li>○ Ensuring that the shelter is raised at least 4 inches from the ground; includes a heat retaining, moisture wicking substance such as straw, and has a covered wind block.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Need to Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Act applies when the Mayor declares a Cold Emergency Alert, which is when the temperature falls, or is forecasted to fall, to 15 degrees Fahrenheit or below including wind chill, or 20 degrees Fahrenheit, including wind chill, and one or more of the following conditions exists:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steady precipitation for 60 consecutive minutes;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>Penalties</p> <p>Reference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more; or</li><li>○ Other meteorological conditions or threats as determined by HSEMA.</li><li>● In conjunction with the Washington Humane Society, and in accordance with GO-OPS-401.07 (Animal Complaints and Reporting Animal Bitings), members shall handle these incidents as they would those involving cruelty to animals.</li><li>● <b>Criminal Offense:</b> Failure to provide a dog with protection from the weather shall be an offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$250.</li><li>● D.C. Official Code §22-1001</li></ul>
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Please note that this is emergency legislation, which becomes effective upon Mayoral signature and expires 90 days thereafter. This circular will expire concurrent with the emergency legislation.



Peter Newsham  
Acting Chief of Police

PN:KDO:MOC:BK:KWC