



## Guidelines to Oregon Animal Statutes

**Pets are our companions** and enrich our lives. Domestic dogs and cats enjoy human attention and being a part of your family's daily activities. They have a need to be social just like we do.

Most dogs do enjoy spending time outdoors, but time alone outdoors should be balanced with quality time spent with their people. With a little time and training, dogs can learn to behave around people and respect the house rules.

Cats enjoy the comforts of an indoor home and do not require time outdoors in order to have healthy, happy and safe lives

If you must keep a dog or cat outdoors for the majority of the day, make sure you are in compliance with all laws regarding shelter and minimum care.

### Minimum Care (ORS 167.310 to 167.351)

All domestic animals in Oregon must receive minimum care as follows:

- ❑ Food of sufficient quality and quantity to allow for normal growth or maintenance of body weight
- ❑ Access to potable water (suitable for drinking)
- ❑ Veterinary care when necessary to relieve distress from illness, injury or disease
- ❑ Access to an area kept reasonably free from excess waste or other contaminants that could affect the animal's health
- ❑ Suitable air temperature for the animal

### Shelter (ORS 167.310(b)(A-G))



Oregon law requires that all domestic animals have constant access to adequate shelter. Adequate shelter includes a barn, doghouse, or other enclosed structure that protects the animal from wind, rain, snow or sun, and has dry bedding to protect against cold and dampness.

Shelters may be commercially made specifically for animals, such as molded plastic “igloo” type dog houses, or may be constructed at home, as long as the shelter provides the protection and bedding stated above. Shelters and the surrounding area must be maintained in good repair and waste must be removed regularly.

Oregon law specifies that **the following are NOT adequate shelter** for domestic animals:

- ❑ Crawl spaces under buildings or parts of building such as steps, decks, overhangs or stoops
- ❑ The space under a vehicle
- ❑ The inside of a vehicle if kept there in a manner that would be considered detrimental to an animal's health or safety
- ❑ Shelters made from cardboard or other degradable materials
- ❑ Wire or plastic travel crates
- ❑ Shelters with wire or chain-link floors, unless the domestic animal is a bird
- ❑ Shelters surrounded by waste, debris, obstructions or impediments that could adversely affect an animal's health

### **Unlawful Tethering (ORS 167.343)**

- ❑ Companion animals must not spend more than 10 hours a day on a chain or tether or more than 15 hours a day fixed to a trolley or runner.

**Failure to provide minimum care may qualify as misdemeanor or felony Animal Neglect crimes in Oregon.**



## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

### **Oregon Humane Society Admissions Department**

To schedule an appointment to rehome your cat or dog  
503.285.7722 extension 211

### **Spay and Save**

Income-based, low-cost spay/neuter program for cats  
To see if you qualify call 1.800.345.SPAY  
[www.asapmetro.org](http://www.asapmetro.org)

### **Oregon Humane Society Behavior Help Line**

Advice, classes and resources for dealing with behavior issues  
503.416.2983  
<http://www.oregonhumane.org/training/>

### **Feral Cat Coalition**

Spay/neuter program for feral cats, resources, tips and info about feral cats  
503.797.2606  
[www.feralcats.com](http://www.feralcats.com)

### **Oregon Spay/ Neuter Fund**

Low-cost spay/neuter options for dogs  
503.244.7936  
[www.oregonspayneuter.org](http://www.oregonspayneuter.org)

### **More resources available online at**

<http://bit.ly/OHSresources>