

# SHELTER & WATER

Do you ever keep your house dog outdoors for fresh air or exercise? Or is your dog an outside yard dog? If so, you should know that Hernando County Animal Ordinance 2002-05 requires you to supply your dog with adequate shelter and sufficient water at all times. Chaining a dog to a tree, even in the shade, or leaving a dog in a fenced yard is no substitute for shelter. Failure to provide shelter or water is mistreatment of an animal and may result in your dog being impounded, or you, as the owner, being fined in increasing amounts, daily until the violation is corrected. Please be considerate and provide your friend with a dog house and water to protect him from the sun, excessive heat, and those sudden storms so common in Florida.

Proper shelter is defined as a structure with a roof, three closed sides and a bottom that protects an animal from the elements including, but not limited to, the sun, wind and rain. Shelter must be available to the animal at all times, even if your pet doesn't use it.

Water must be clean and wholesome. Make sure to leave a large bowl of water that cannot be knocked over so that your dog will have water all day long. It gets real hot wearing a fur coat all day and your dog can easily suffer from heat stroke or death if he does not have water to cool his system. For tips on how to keep your water bowl from tipping call Animal Services at 796-5062.

You can report an animal with no shelter or water anonymously to:

***HERNANDO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES***

***19450 Oliver Street***

***Brooksville, FL 34601***

***(352) 796-5062 Fax (352) 796-3746***

***ac@co.hernando.fl.us***

***<http://www.co.hernando.fl.us>***