

TISBURY ANIMAL CONTROL  
P.O.BOX 1239  
66 HIGHPOINT LANE  
TISBURY, MA. 02568  
508-696-4209

## PROPER SHELTER

Proper shelter is a basic necessity for any animal. If your animal spends any time outside, you are required by law to provide proper shelter. Proper shelter, simply put, is a dog house.

The dog house must be a sturdy structure and provide adequate protection from the weather.

It must keep the rain, snow and other elements out (including the hot sun beating down on your pet), while providing physical comfort to the animal.

It should be raised off the ground about six to eight inches with blocks or bricks to prevent moisture or cold (depending on the season) from coming up through the bottom of the dog house.

It must be totally enclosed except for the front. The front should have an opening large enough for the dog to fit through comfortably, yet, small enough to keep the elements out. A plastic covering on the opening may help, but some dogs may take a long time to get used to it or not use the shelter at all.

Monitor your dog's actions, and if it doesn't use the shelter with plastic on it, remove the plastic.

The positioning of your pet's shelter is also important. It should not face a northeast wind (wintertime), as this is a very bitter wind. This is also the direction of the worst type of snow storm, therefore, not protecting your pet.

If you put blankets or rugs in your pet's doghouse, check them on a daily basis. When it rains, the blankets or rugs may get wet from your dog's body. Blankets and rugs hold in dampness and moisture. Even though it is dry outside, the blankets and rugs may remain wet and cause your pet much discomfort. This could be one reason your dog is not using its shelter. Would you like to lie on a wet blanket for long periods of time?

Lastly, check the entire structure on a routine basis. Check for nails or other sharp objects that may cause harm to your pet. Check to make sure the wood is not rotting and that the structure is still sturdy.

Common sense serves us all in caring for our animals.