

# **Guide for Proper Housing of Dogs**

**McDowell County  
Animal Shelter  
828-652-6643**



## **Introduction**

The purpose of this guide is to offer best practices for housing dogs outside.



The McDowell County Animal Control Ordinance requires that an owner provide his or her animal(s) with a structure that protects the animal(s) from cold, winds, snow, rain, and high heat.

In summer that structure should be placed where it

has shade from the sun throughout the day. In winter the opening should be placed away from prevailing winds.

## **Materials and Design**

The dog's house should be constructed of durable fiber, wood, plastic or other non-metallic materials of adequate insulate value that allows an animal to maintain its body temperature.

It should consist of at least three sides, a floor and a roof. The walls must keep out rain, sleet, wind and snow.

The floor should stay dry at all times. It must be large enough to allow the animal to turn around, lie down and stretch comfortably.

Metal barrels do not provide protection from heat and cold, and do not enable an animal to maintain its body temperature.

## **Barrel Exchange**

The McDowell County Animal Shelter has a program that encourages the exchange of metal barrels for plastic barrels or houses for dogs living outside. For more information about this program, contact the shelter at 828-652-6643.

