

CURRENTS

JNEC's December Newsletter

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Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

By Anne Prince

I don't know about you, but I consider my four-legged companion(s) part of the family. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big “bite” out of our budget. This month, I'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be “ruff”, so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs—not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens, and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.



Stay cozy with extra
layers of clothing and
an electric blanket.



JASPER-NEWTON COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH
DISTRICT

EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR

East Texas Rural Youth Seminar (ETREYS) Program was developed to enhance leadership and problem-solving skills in a positive learning environment on the campus of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. The program also promotes the Cooperative philosophy, ideals and values among young people and builds loyalty for the program. ETREYS is scheduled for June 19-23, 2023

To learn more, visit www.jnec.com



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JNEC Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available on JNEC's website at www.jnec.com. Applications will also be in area high schools in December and January. Deadline for returning scholarship applications is February 3, 2023.

Fourteen scholarships are available from Jasper-Newton Electric Education Fund in 2023 as follows:

- Two (2) - Four Year, \$4,000 scholarships at \$500 per semester
- Eleven (11) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarships
- One (1) - One Year, \$1,000 scholarship



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and reap the benefits all year long!