

WINTER PET CARE TIPS

How to Keep your Pet Safe During
Cold Weather



Many people think pets don't suffer in the cold because they have fur. Pets, like people, get used to the warmth and comfort of being inside during cold weather.

Pets will suffer in cold weather if they are left outside too long. They can get frostbite and suffer from hypothermia and even die if they are not cared for during the winter.

Make sure that your pet is safe and comfortable during cold weather.

Keep your pet inside as much as possible in cold weather.

Don't leave your pet outside in the cold – go out with them and when you are cold enough to come inside, they probably are too.



Very young and very old animals are more easily affected by the cold and should be watched very closely when outside in cold weather.

Provide a nice, warm place for your pet to sleep with a thick, comfortable bed.

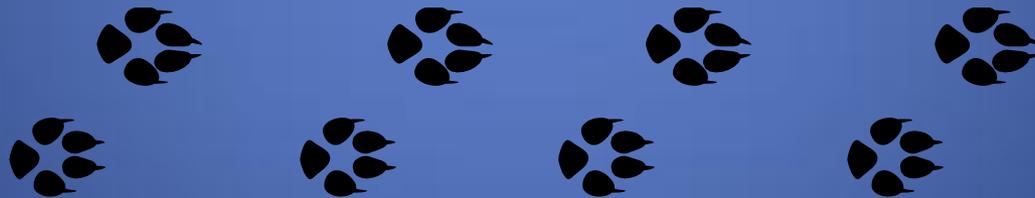


Increase your pet's supply of food,
especially protein – they will burn
more energy keeping warm during the
winter and need the extra food to
keep healthy

Short-haired pets may have more difficulty with cold weather than breeds with longer hair.

To help short-haired pets deal better with cold temperatures, a pet sweater can help make your pet more comfortable when outside in cold weather.

Never let your dog off the leash during a snowstorm – your dog cannot easily retrace their scent over snow and ice and might get lost.



Wipe off your pet's paws when they come inside to help their feet dry off and to remove any salt or chemicals used to melt snow and ice – these chemicals can harm your pet's footpads.

Make sure your pet has fresh,
unfrozen water at all times.

- Make sure to put antifreeze and snow melting compounds out of the reach of animals as they can be very poisonous.

If you live near a pond or lake, beware of thin ice – your pet can fall through if the ice isn't strong enough to support their weight



Beware of your pet becoming trapped.

Animals that are left outside alone may dig into snowbanks or crawl into small spaces under a house or shed to try to keep warm and will get stuck.

Symptoms of Cold

If you notice any of these symptoms, take your pet inside immediately:

Whining

Shivering

Slowing down

Attempts to burrow

Appearing anxious

Stopping movement

Health Risks of Exposure to Cold

Hypothermia

- If an animal spends too much time exposed to cold, it may not be able to maintain its body temperature
- Mild cases cause shivering and lethargy
- More severe cases can cause the heart and breathing to slow down and can even cause death

WHAT TO DO: bring your pet inside and wrap them in blankets to warm up and take them to your vet immediately

Health Risks of Exposure to Cold

Frostbite

- This occurs when an animal or person gets so cold that the body pulls all blood from the extremities (fingers, toes, ears, tail or paws) to keep the main part of the body warm.
- Ice crystals can form in the tissue and cause damage.
- It is sometimes hard to tell if an animal has frostbite.

WHAT TO DO: If you suspect your pet has frostbite, take them to your vet immediately.