

Winter Weather Tips for Pets



1. Know your dog's limits. Short coated, thin, elderly, and very young dogs get cold more quickly, Limit the amount of time your dog stays outside. If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your dog.

2. Check the hood of your car. Cats often sleep in wheel wells of cars during the winter months to keep warm.

3. Wipe their paws. During winter walks, dog's paws can pick up toxic chemicals such as salt, antifreeze, or de-icers. Wipe off their paws when you return home to prevent getting sick from licking chemicals off.

4. Keep them leashed. Pets are more likely to get lost in the winter than any other season because snowfall can disguise recognizable scents that would normally help them find their way home.

5. Avoid ice. If you're walking your dog, avoid frozen lakes and ponds. Your dog could be seriously hurt or even killed if the ice breaks.

6. Leave them home. Just as hot cars are dangerous in the summer, cold cars are dangerous as well. Only take your pets in the car if necessary and never leave them unattended.

7. Be seen. When walking, be sure to keep yourself and your dog safe by wearing reflective gear and keep your dog close when walking on the street.

8. Give them shelter. If your pets live primarily outside, bring them indoors during sub-zero temperatures. Provide them with a dry, draft free shelter that is large enough to allow them to sit and lay down comfortably, but small enough to preserve body heat.

9. Avoid spills. Antifreeze attracts cats and dogs because it is sweet to taste, but it is very poisonous and can cause serious illness or death when ingested. Keep bottles somewhere your pet cannot access.

10. Be prepared. Extreme weather can cause power outages. Have an emergency plan and make sure they include your pets, include emergency kits with enough food and water for your pets!