



Winter Pet Safety Tips

Brrr... it's cold outside!! The following guidelines will help you protect your pets when the mercury dips!!

- **Prevent Frostbite-** When the temperature gets below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, outdoor dogs and cats should be brought into the house.
- **Provide Suitable Housing-** Houses should be provided and elevated a few inches off the ground. Lining with straw, hay or blankets will help insulate the pet from the cold. Face the door of the house away from the North or West to help avoid cold winter winds and consider placing a flap over the door. Houses should be cozy but not too spacious. Oversized houses can cause warm air to dissipate more quickly.
- **Check Water Supply-** Fresh water should be available at all times. Use plastic or ceramic bowls...metal can cause injury to the tongue. Check the water several times daily to be sure it is not frozen.
- **Adjust Your Pet's Diet-** Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors in the winter burn more calories in an effort to stay warm. Increase food supply to meet the demand for increased effort.
- **Use Pet-Friendly Antifreeze-** Pets love the sweet taste of antifreeze but the consequences of ingesting this chemical can be fatal. Antifreeze ingestion is a very serious emergency and immediate medical care should be taken if you believe your pet has consumed antifreeze.



- **Wipe Those Feet-** Chemicals that are used to melt snow and ice can cause burns on pet's paw pads. Consider wiping your pet's feet, after coming indoors, to remove these chemicals so that he will not ingest them through the licking his feet. It is also wise to examine your pet's feet for clumped snow or ice that can make the pet uncomfortable or lame.
- **Beware of cats under the hood!-** Outdoor cats often seek refuge under the hood of cars to stay warm from the heat of the engine. Bang on the hood of your car or honk your horn before starting your vehicle.
- **Do Not Leave Your Pet in the Car-** Most people know the dangers of leaving your pet in the car in hot weather...the same holds true for cold weather! If your car becomes too cold inside, your pet could suffer from hyperthermia.
- ***Your veterinarian is your complete source of medical guidance for your pets. Be sure to contact us if you have any concerns or questions.***