

Winter Pet Safety Guide

Keep animals safe, warm and happy in cold weather.
Fur coats don't protect pets from hypothermia and frostbite.

Make Sure to...

- Provide pets a warm, insulated place to sleep, free from drafts.
- Check that fireplaces have screens, and portable heaters are out of reach to your pets.

Signs of Distress

- Excessive shivering
- Lifting paws
- Licking/biting paws
- Behaviour changes - anxious, fearful or reluctant to walk/play outside

DID YOU KNOW?

- Fur loses its insulating ability when **wet**.
- Paw pads, ears and noses are more **vulnerable to frostbite**.
- **Antifreeze is lethal** to dogs and cats, even in small doses—be vigilant.
- **Vehicles act like refrigerators** in the winter, holding in cold.
- Cars left running are a **carbon monoxide risk** to animals inside.
- Pets can be **stolen** from vehicles.

Dog Safety Tips

- **Limit outdoor time** for puppies, senior dogs, small and short-haired dog breeds in cold or wet weather—consider boots and a sweater/coat if your dog doesn't mind being bundled.
- Thoroughly **dry feet, legs and stomach** when your dog comes in from the snow.
- Keep an eye on **sensitive paw pads**, which can be injured from snow, ice and salt spread on sidewalks.
- **Don't allow dogs off-leash** in a snowstorm—they can easily lose their scent and become disoriented and lost.
- Provide outdoor dogs with an **insulated doghouse** with straw bedding (NOT blankets).
- Feed outdoor dogs an **increased protein-heavy diet** to provide energy for warmth.
- Provide outdoor dogs **fresh water regularly** in a non-metal dish.

Cat Safety Tips

- Cats' bodies are not meant to withstand low temperatures—**keep your cat indoors**.
- **Outdoor cats will seek warmth in winter** - such as the engine of a parked vehicle. Before starting your vehicle, check surroundings for paw prints, bang on the hood or honk the horn to allow cats a chance to escape.

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