



Winter Weather Safety Tips for Dogs

The winter months can be hazardous to your dog's health.

- 1 Moisturize.** Winter weather can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your dog as soon as he comes inside. Bathe your dog as little as possible during cold spells. If your pup must be bathed, use a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- 2 Protect Paw Pads.** Massage petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside to help protect from salt and chemical agents.
- 3 Dress Warmly.** If your dog has a short coat or gets chilled easily, consider a sweater or dog coat. Don't shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth.
- 4 Towel Off.** After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals.
- 5 Stay Inside.** Make sure your dog has a warm place to sleep that's off the floor and away from all drafts.
- 6 Eat More.** Dogs burn extra energy trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feed him or her a little bit more during cold weather months. Also make sure he or she sure has plenty of water to drink.
- 7 Collar and Chip.** Many dogs can become disoriented in winter because snow and ice can hide recognizable scents. Make sure your dog has a collar with up-to-date identification and contact information and that his or her microchip registration is up to date.
- 8 Avoid Ice.** Stay away from frozen ponds, lakes and other water when walking your dog. A frozen waterway may look as if it can support your weight, but if it doesn't, the result can be deadly.
- 9 Be Prepared.** Severe winter weather can cause power outages and make driving unsafe or impossible. Make sure you have enough food, water and medicine to get through at least 3 days.
- 10 See Your Vet.** Cold weather may worsen some medical conditions such as arthritis. Make sure your pet is as healthy as possible for cold weather.

