



## WINTER TIPS FOR YOUR PETS: How to Keep Your Dog Safe in the Winter

Winter's freezing temperatures, bitter winds and ice can be dangerous for your dog. Follow these 6 simple tips to keep your dog happy, healthy and safe.

- 1- Let your dog outside for only short amounts of time. Although he might love jumping and playing in the snow, dogs, like humans, are susceptible to frostbite.
- 2- Make sure there is not snow or ice stuck between the pads of your dog's paws when she comes inside. Your dog's ears and tail are also among the most common places for frostbite.
- 3- Clean your dog's paws when you return from a walk because salt and other substances used to melt ice can be harmful to his health.
- 4- Cut your walks short in the winter, particularly in the wind, which can dry out the eyes, nose and skin of you and your dog.
- 5- Make sure your dog has a secure, wind-proof shelter if you must keep him outside. Blankets or even straw can help keep your pet warm, but bring your dog inside on nights when it is very cold to prevent hypothermia. Most cities have laws that require adequate protection and warmth for your dog.
- 6- Purchase a heater bowl if you keep your dog outside so she has fresh water that is not frozen.

### Tips & Warnings:

**\*\*\*Keep all antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid out of reach of your dogs!!!!**

- Consider buying a sweater for short-haired dogs to offer protection from the cold.
- Be aware that dogs are pack animals and your pet will likely be more happy and healthy if she can spend time inside with her pack: you and your family.
- Wear secure rubber-soled boots when walking your dog in winter. There are also products that you can put on your boots that act like spikes or chains on tires and make walking on icy sidewalks much safer.
- You can purchase boots for your dog if you are concerned about his paws, but many dogs refuse to keep them on.
- Do not shave your dog. His natural coat will help insulate him from the cold and keep water from saturating to his skin.
- Cold can inflame arthritis and other diseases in older dogs.
- Be careful if your dog likes to curl up next to the fireplace, wood stove or space heater.
- Dogs can slip easily on ice, too, so try to use pet-friendly substances to melt the ice on your patio, steps, driveway or anywhere your dog frequents.