

WINTER PET SAFETY GUIDE

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

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.



Don't leave your pet unattended in a vehicle!

Make sure to...

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

Signs of Distress

Bring them inside!

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

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.