



Cold Weather Pet Tips



▶ Outdoor cats like to get into warm places when the weather is cold. Be sure to check under your car before starting it. Bang on the hood or honk the horn prior to starting your car to scare them away.

▶ Make sure products like antifreeze and windshield wiper fluid are out of reach of your pets. Make sure to clean up any spills or cover open containers to avoid your animal from drinking it. Products made with ethylene glycol taste sweet to animals. Avoid using products with this ingredient and use propylene glycol based products instead. These do not taste as good and many animals will avoid these.

▶ NEVER leave your animal unattended in a car during cold weather. The cold air is trapped inside your car and animals, especially those with short hair and low body fat, can freeze to death or suffer from hypothermia.

▶ Be sure to wipe off your pet's stomach and feet, and even between their toes, when they have been outside. Chemicals such as lime rock salt or calcium chloride salt can be often used in the winter to help melt ice and snow. These can be picked up on your pet's feet and can cause illness if licked or ingested. Clumps of snow and ice can also build up between the toes of animals, and can cause frostbite.



▶ If your pet spends a lot of time outdoors, give it extra calories when it is cold out, to help keep it warm. Also make sure your pet has a supply of fresh water, NOT snow or ice.

▶ NEVER shave your pet's hair down to the skin during the cold winter months! A longer coat will provide more warmth. For short haired dogs, a sweater or doggie coat can help provide additional warmth. If you bathe your pet during the winter, make sure they are completely dry before allowing them outside. A wet pet can develop hypothermia, or other cold related illnesses.



▶ A warm place to get out of the cold is a must for any dog or cat that spends time outside. Make sure that place is off the floor or ground and away from drafts. The shelter must be big enough to allow the animal to turn around, stand up or lay down. Provide warm bedding in the form of old blankets, towels or straw, to give them someplace to keep warm. Make sure that bedding is dry. If it gets wet, replace it. Insulation or a heater may be provided, but use caution... Heaters and heat lamps must be kept clear of bedding and other flammable materials.