



Protect Your Pets From Winters Woes

♥ IN THE GREATER
CHICAGOLAND AREA WINTER
IS A SEASON OF BITTER COLD
AND NUMBING WETNESS.
HELP YOUR PETS REMAIN
HAPPY AND HEALTHY DURING
THE COLDER MONTHS:

- ♥ Do not leave animals outdoors when the temperature drops below freezing. Regardless of the season, short-haired, very young or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside without supervision. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer if kept indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- ♥ No matter what the temperature, wind-chill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If you must keep an animal outside he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free, insulated doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings. The house should be turned to face away from the wind and the doorway should be covered with burlap or a rug.

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- ♥ Outdoor dogs need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your dog's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your dog's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.
- ♥ Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood. To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.
- ♥ The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can burn the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and burns his/her mouth.
- ♥ Antifreeze is a deadly poison, but it has a sweet taste that may attract animals and children. Wipe up spills and store antifreeze and all household chemicals out of reach. Better yet, use antifreeze that is nontoxic and if swallowed will not hurt pets, wildlife or your family.
- ♥ Dry heat can dry out your pet's skin and make him/her itchy and uncomfortable. A small amount of vegetable oil in your pet's food will help keep him/her comfortable.

♥ THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE
UNITED STATES