

WINTER TIPS FOR PETS

If it is too cold outside for you, it is too cold for your pet. Pets can freeze or become disoriented because of the cold weather. Just as in the summer, don't leave your pets in the car. Cars can act like refrigerators during winter.

Remember that antifreeze can be deadly for your pets.

As pets burn more energy during winter, you might want to increase the amount of food you give to them. Make sure your pets have access to plenty of water, so they stay hydrated.

Wipe your pets' paws and bellies when they come home after walks. Check for snow stuck on their paws. Cleaning their paws and bellies will remove any irritants they come into contact with on their walk. There are products that you can purchase, and apply to your pets' paws to protect them during winter. Check with your vet for a recommendation.

Avoid bathing pets frequently during winter. Doing so can remove essential oils and may make it more likely that your pets will develop dry, flaky skin. If a pet must be bathed, use a moisturizing shampoo or rinse. Ask your vet to recommend a shampoo or rinse.

Finally, make sure your pets have a comfortable place to keep warm and sleep. Make sure they have a place to sleep that is off the floor and away from drafts. Warm beds that your pets can snuggle into can help keep your pets warm. Make sure your pets also have blankets.

Check out the following links to learn more about how to keep your cats and dogs safe during winter.

<https://www.greatplainsspca.org/top-10-winter-weather-tips-pets/>

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/five-ways-protect-pets-winter>

<https://www.petfinder.com/dogs/dog-care/cold-weather-pet-tips/>