

Hot/Cold Weather Tips

COLD WEATHER

Antifreeze

Keep your pets away from antifreeze and quickly clean up any spills. This solution is attractive to pets and it's deadly, even in small amounts.

Pets Kept Outdoors

Do not leave your pets unattended and outdoors when the temperature is below freezing! Pets can develop hypothermia and frostbite, particularly in the ear tips.

Cats left outdoors and in the cold pose a special hazard because they often crawl into a warm car engine. When the engine is started up, they can get seriously injured or killed. It's much safer to keep our pets indoors during the winter months.

Dogs, regardless of coat length may need boots in cold weather. Watch for your dog lifting up his paws. He also may stop or whine during walks. That's a good sign his feet are uncomfortably cold.

Iceballs are frequently formed between the pads and toes of the feet, especially in long fur dogs. These can be very painful when walking. To avoid this, it's important to keep the hair trimmed around the dog's feet. Apply a bit of Vaseline or cooking oil to your dog's feet before going on a walk.

If your pet walks on salted sidewalks or streets, be sure to wash his paws after your walk. Salt is very irritating to footpads.

Both dogs and cats need fresh water when kept indoors. Warmer temperatures inside a house can evaporate the water in their bowls.

HOT WEATHER

Our pets have special needs during the summer when temperature and humidity are much higher. Dogs and cats wear a heavy fur coat and have limited ability to cool themselves because they only have sweat glands on their paws, and cannot stay cool as humans do.

Dogs and cats mostly pant to cool themselves and seek cool places to avoid the summer heat. The following are guidelines to keep in mind when your pets are outdoors in hot weather:

- Provide a shaded place and plenty of fresh water to drink. In summer, pets need to replenish the moisture lost in panting. Many dogs also enjoy swimming for exercise and to cool down.
- Never keep your pet in a car in direct sun on a summer day. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature inside a car can soar to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or more within minutes. These conditions can kill a pet within 10 minutes or less.
- If you like to run or do vigorous exercise with your dog, do so at cooler times of the day, early morning or evening. Exercising during hotter times in the day is dangerous for you and your dog, especially if he's overweight and is not given water to drink frequently. He will often try to keep going to keep up with you. You may not realize until his condition is severe that he has been seriously overheating. Soaking before exercise is a good idea, particularly with long-haired or heavy-coated dogs. If your dog is overheating, soak him in cool or cold water IMMEDIATELY and contact your Vet. This is an emergency situation and requires immediate care.