

Winter Pet Care



Proper Shelter

It is very important for pets to have adequate shelter during the winter months. Cats and most small dogs should be kept inside during the winter months. Large dogs can survive outside if they have adequate shelter.

The shelter should be large enough for the dog to move around, but it shouldn't be more than three times the size of the dog. Dog houses that are too large are difficult to keep warm with the dog's body heat.

It's also important for the shelter to be dry. Elevating the dog house will keep the floor dry. A clean, dry blanket and a flap over the entrance of the shelter helps keep the dog warm.

Frostbite

Even though pets have a coat of fur to protect them, they can still get frostbite. Cats and small dogs should be kept indoors during freezing weather. It's still important to make sure your pet gets exercise by going on walks, but at this time of the year, the walks should be shortened.

Water

If your pet stays outdoors during the winter months, be sure that your pet's water supply doesn't become frozen. Water is very important to the survival of pets. If needed, change the water frequently throughout the day.

Rock salt and de-icers

These ice-melting products will irritate a pet's paws. Before going out onto sidewalks that may have these products on them, you may want to rub a little baby oil on the pads of the paws and sprinkle baby powder on them. This will help protect your pet's paws from becoming sore. When you come back from being outside, be sure to rinse off your pet's paws.

Anti-freeze

Animals like the taste of anti-freeze. They will lick up spills and leaks in the garage. Anti-freeze is poisonous to your pet, so be sure to clean up all leaks and spills thoroughly.

Beware of cats under your car

During the cold weather, cats may seek warm shelter under your car. They like to crawl up by the engine where it's warm. Before starting your car, make sure there isn't a cat under your engine by lifting the hood of your car, honking your horn, or by slapping the hood hard enough to frighten the cat out.



When the temperature falls below freezing, your pet will need extra care. If you have other questions, please call Animal Control at 402-441-7900.