

# HAVE YOU “WINTERIZED” YOUR DOG?

**C**old weather brings its own safety and health concerns for both people and dogs. As a responsible dog owner, it is important to pay attention to your dog’s well-being during the winter. Remember the following precautions to help keep your pet comfortable, healthy and safe all season.



## Provide Plenty of Fresh Water

Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.

## Provide Plenty of Food

Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.

## Keep Your Dog’s Paws Dry

Rinse your dog’s feet and dry them completely after a walk. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.

## Groom Your Dog Regularly

Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow.

## Keep Your Dog Warm, Dry and Away From Drafts

Adequate shelter is a necessity. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold. Place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.

## Watch Out for Winter Hazards

**Cold:** Don’t leave your dog outside for long periods of time. Windchill makes days colder than actual temperature readings, and dogs are susceptible to frostbite on their ears, tails and feet.



**Ice and Snow:** Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog outside. Your dog could slip or jump in a frozen lake, river or pond and get seriously injured. Snow can muffle scents, and your dog can easily get lost.

**Carbon Monoxide:** Don’t leave your dog alone in a car. It gets too cold, and carbon monoxide from an engine left running is dangerous.

**Antifreeze:** Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, antifreeze is highly poisonous and can be lethal.