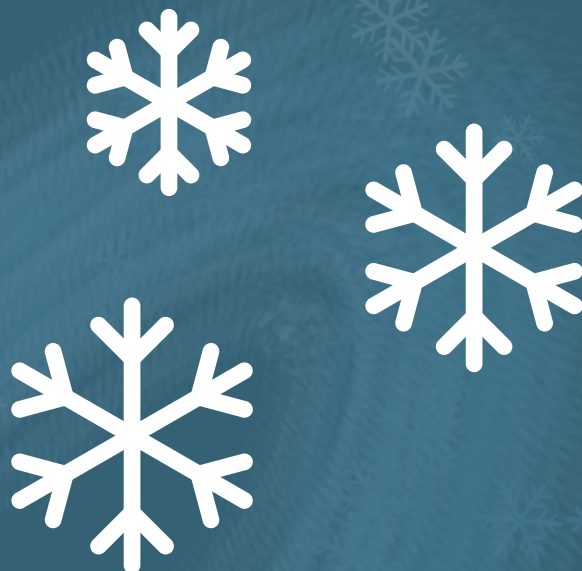


# Winterize Your Pets

- ♥ If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pets. Signs that your pet is uncomfortably cold include shivering, frequently lifting up their paws, whining, or stopping on a walk.
- ♥ Short-coated dogs may need a coat or sweater outdoors. Dogs don't need booties daily, but in extreme temperatures or if walking on sidewalks with ice melt, using foot coverings can prevent harm to your pup's paws. Start with short walks and be patient as they get used to them. Other options, such as Musher's Secret wax, provide a breathable barrier to protect paws.
- ♥ If your pet must be outside for any length of time, make sure they have a dry, draft-free, enclosed space that is large enough to sit and lie down in, but small enough to retain body heat. The floor should be elevated a few inches off the ground. For insulation, straw (not hay) is a great solution. NEVER put mechanical heaters inside, as these cause fires or other deadly disasters.
- ♥ Salt and chemicals used to melt ice and snow can harm your pet's feet. Gently rub the bottom of your pet's paws with a damp towel to remove these irritants after a walk. Dog booties are also a great solution to prevent paw irritation during winter weather. Consider purchasing "pet safe" ice melts, rather than standard rock salt, for use on your own sidewalks and driveway.
- ♥ Many types of antifreeze have a sweet taste that can attract pets, and very small amounts of them can be toxic. Keep antifreeze out of reach of your pets and clean up any spills right away to avoid poisoning. Parked vehicles can attract cats and small wildlife, especially under the hood where it's warm. Bang on your vehicle's hood to frighten animals away before starting your engine.
- ♥ When making an emergency kit for winter storms and power outages (nonperishable foods, batteries, flashlights, blankets, power banks, etc.) include pet food, a supply of any medications they require, vaccination records, and warm bedding for them.



KEEPING FAMILIES  
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