

# KEEP PETS SAFE in WINTER MONTHS

## Exposure to the Cold

See a dog out in the cold without proper shelter? Contact local law enforcement. Dogs left in extreme temperatures, especially without food or shelter, are at risk of hypothermia, frostbite, and death.

### How can you help?

- Note the date, time, exact location, and type of animal(s) involved.
- Follow up in a few days of the situation has not been remedied.
- Jot down as many details as possible before contacting animal control or law enforcement with your complaint.

### Did you know?

Animal neglect is a misdemeanor crime in all 50 states.

### Cats get cold, too.

If your neighborhood plays host to a feral cat community, you can easily repurpose foam cooler bins to create safe, insulated shelters.

## Paw Protection

Daily walks in the cold can harm your dog's paws. Keep them moisturized to protect against salt and chemical agents.

- Use pet booties to minimize contact with painful salt crystals, poisonous anti-freeze and chemical ice-melting agents.
- Apply a dollop of petroleum jelly to pet's paw pads before going outside.

## Do's and Don'ts

**Don't** closely shave your dog in winter. Longer coats mean more warmth.

**Do** consider a coat or sweater for shorthaired breeds. Coverage from the base of the tail to the belly provides extra warmth.

## Ditch the Bath

Reduce bathing frequency during cold spells. Drying can take too long, and washing too often can deplete essential oils to increase dry, flaky skin.

### Ask a Pro.

If your dog must be bathed, ask your vet for a moisturizing shampoo or rinse recommendation.

## Check Before You Rev

Outdoor, stray and feral cats sometimes sleep under car hoods to stay warm. But the fan belt can injure or kill a cat when the motor starts.

### To avoid catastrophe:

Bang loudly on your hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.

## More Tips

For more tips on keeping your pet safe, download the free ASPCA® mobile app at [aspca.org/mobileapp](http://aspca.org/mobileapp).

## Reporting Cruelty

Learn more about reporting animal cruelty at [aspca.org/reportcruelty](http://aspca.org/reportcruelty).

