Anderson Animal Shelter
A Humane Society
1000 South Lafox Road
South Elgin, Illinois 60177

Cold Weather Tips for Pets

Pets should never be kept out-of-doors all the time. Not only do they need to be protected from inclement weather, but they need socialization and attention to keep them happy and healthy emotionally. We feel that an adequate level of attention comes from living in the home with owners can provide. We also believe that cats should be kept indoors at all times to protect their health and safety.

In winter, exposing animals to snow, ice and bitter temperatures calls for extra caution, including:

1. Antifreeze can poison pets if they ingest it. Store it in a secure container in a safe place. And, if you spill it, clean the area thoroughly. Also, consider buying products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
2. If you have an indoor/outdoor cat, try to keep them in during the winter months. They may not like it, but doing so can prevent them from freezing to death when temperatures drop.
3. Remember that cats can slip under the hoods of cars to seek refuge from the cold. They can be injured or killed by the fan belt when the car is started. If you park your car outside and suspect there may be outside cats in the area, bang loudly on the hood to scare them away before starting the engine.
4. Keep your dog on-leash on snow or ice. The cold weather can cause dogs to lost their scent and get lost. It's also a good idea to have your dog (and cat) microchipped, in case they lose their way and are taken to an animal shelter or veterinarian office.
5. Wipe off your dog's stomach, legs and paws when coming in from the snow or ice. Salt and other deicing agents can poison him if he licks residue from these products.

6. Just as in the summer, leaving your pet in a closed car in cold weather poses dangers as well. Animals can freeze to death in vehicles that, when closed, trap the cold air inside.
7. Never shave your dog's fur to the skin in the winter. Doing so eliminates the extra warmth that long hair can provide. If your dog is already a short-haired breed, consider a dog coat or sweater that provides coverage from the base of the tail to the abdomen. Keep in mind that puppies have a particularly difficult time coping with the cold.
8. It takes extra energy to be active during cold weather. If your dogs spends a lot of time outdoors, increase his food supply.