



Getting Your Dog Ready for Winter

Calories

- ❖ The more your pet is outside, the more fuel needed.
- ❖ Indoor pets may get less exercise in the cold months and will need fewer calories to avoid weight gain.
- ❖ Keep a close eye on your dog's weight and food habits



The Dog House

- ❖ If your dog loves the outdoors, it still needs a dry elevated dog house with clean dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out.
- ❖ Never use a space heater, heat lamp or any other device that is not approved for use with animals.

The Water Dish

- ❖ As always make sure there is plenty of fresh drinking water.
- ❖ Pets lose moisture through breathing and the effects of cold temperatures are magnified by dehydration.
- ❖ Make sure the water has not frozen.
- ❖ Avoid metal dishes in the cold months (think about the tongue thing)

Chemicals

- ❖ Pets are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze, which can be deadly. Plain and simple, keep it away from your dog.
- ❖ Snow and ice melting chemicals on sidewalks can irritate a dog's paw. Make sure to wipe their paws with a wet cloth when they come in from outside.
- ❖ There are pet friendly ice melting compounds available that are inexpensive and a few are not harmful to your cement.

Clothing (For the dog, not you)

- ❖ We sometimes forget the obvious, smaller dogs have less body mass so they have less protection against harsh winter weather. They are also closer to the ground.
- ❖ It's not for decoration; dog boots, sweaters or coats help protect your dog's skin and coat from pelting rain and snow.
- ❖ A cozy dog sweater raises their body temperature. This can help shorthaired breed, dogs that are sick, older dogs or young puppies.
- ❖ Boots will protect your dog feet from chemicals
- ❖ Rubber soled boots, can keep their paws from slipping or sliding, preventing injury. They also help prevent frostbite.

Waxing (Now I have your attention)

- ❖ Waxing a dog's paws is essentially applying an invisible boot to avoid abrasions, burning, drying or cracking.
- ❖ It forms a breathable bond between two surfaces
- ❖ It does not stain, is non-toxic and non-allergenic.
- ❖ There are several products available, some with vitamin E to moisturize and some will help heal wounds and keep paws healthy.



As with any health issue make sure you consult your veterinarian about your pet's care & well being.