

Winter Tips For Your Pet

1. Get a vet check to make sure your dog is ready for the cold winter ahead.
2. Never leave your dog alone in the car or with the engine running.
3. Keep a current ID on your dog. Also get a microchip implanted in your dog, because tags and collars can get lost.
4. Keep towels handy by the door to wipe your dog's feet, legs and abdomen after coming in from the snow and ice. Wash his paws to remove any salt. Groom your dog often to stimulate the oil glands to prevent dandruff and get rid of any dead fur.
5. Brush your dog's teeth often to keep tartar at bay and to prevent cavities.
6. Feed good quality food, and don't overfeed. You should be able to feel your dog's ribs.
7. Never leave your dog outside in very cold weather.
8. When walking your dog in the snow, put some Vaseline on his pads for protection. Always keep the dog on a leash.
9. In very cold weather, put a sweater on your dog to keep him from getting chilled.
10. If you have a large breed of dog and he has to be outside, provide a cozy doghouse free of leaks and drafts and with proper bedding.
11. Ensure that water in outside bowls does not freeze. Use a plastic bowl, because your dog's tongue can stick to the side of a cold, metal bowl.
12. Have a dog proof room in the house where your outside dog can be inside when the temperature is below 32 degrees.
13. Keep your dog away from anti-freeze. If you suspect your dog may have ingested some, take him to the vet immediately. To prevent this from happening, replace the ethylene glycol based anti-freeze with propylene glycol based anti-freeze.
14. Keep your dog stimulated, but don't exercise him to the point of exhaustion.
15. Supervise your dog around driveways and parked cars.
16. Walk your dog, as much as possible, on paths free of ice and snow.
17. Particularly if your dog is older, provide a nice sunny spot where he can warm up.
18. If it's too cold for you to be outside, chances are it's too cold for your dog too.
19. Save the Frisbee games for the summer, because your dog could slip and injure himself. Instead play catch or hide and go seek in the house.
20. Secure kitchen garbage and don't leave any smelly discarded food in it. Place it in the garage.
21. Place house plants out of reach. Check to see if any are poisonous to your dog. Refer to the Items Poisonous to Dogs article on the Articles and Forms page of our web site at <http://www.ColoradoBeagleRescue.org>.
22. On a cold day, curl up with your dog and read a good book.

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