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 increse 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**.

Reporting Cruelty

Learn more about reporting animal cruelty at **aspca.org/reportcruelty**.