



Winter Weather Tips

It is that time of the year again. Time to retire our flip flops and bring out our boots! While our pets may not experience weather as frigid as other states, we still need to be cautious when the temperatures drop. Keeping animals warm and happy during the colder months is easy. Below are cold weather tips that our furry friends would like you to read.

- Spend more time indoors. Extreme changes in temperature or exposure to such can cause frostbite. Just because a dog has fur, does not mean they are equipped to stay outdoors. Paw pads, noses and more are especially susceptible.
- Indoor activities can curb boredom and prevent behavior problem. Replacing meals with frozen, stuffed Kongs provides needed mental stimulation. Other options include: short daily training sessions, playing “find the treat” , and making an indoor agility course from everyday objects. Here is a how to guide:
http://www.exceptionalcanine.com/pawspetweb/ca/blog/homemade_obstacle_course/index.html#.VGuREEwo6ig
- If you do take your pet for a walk on a colder day, make it a shorter one. Sweaters and jackets are not just for fun, they can protect dogs that do not have thick hair. Boots can also protect delicate paws from salt.
- Cover door drafts for your pet’s comfort and to save on heating bills. Being lower to the ground means it can seem cold even indoors. Homes without carpeting can feel chilly to your dog or cat.
- If an animal does spend it’s time outdoors, be sure to have sufficient shelter, water and food. One example of shelter for community cats:
<http://aspcapro.org/resource/spayneuter-feral-cats/winter-shelter-bins-community-cats-faq>
- Animals that are outdoors may also seek shelter in less than typical locations. Be sure to bang on the hood of your car and allow it extra time to warm up just to allow any temporary guest to vacate safely! Be sure to keep anti-freeze away from access. The sweet but deadly taste is appealing to animals.