

# COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

**Fur coats don't protect pets from hypothermia and frostbite.**

Here are some tips for keeping your furry friends safe, warm and happy this winter.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Fur loses its insulating ability when wet?
- Paw pads, ears, and noses are vulnerable to frostbite?
- Antifreeze can be lethal to dogs and cats even in small doses?
- Vehicles can act like refrigerators in the winter, holding in cold?
- Cars left running could be a carbon monoxide risk to animals inside?

## DOGS

- Limit outdoor time for puppies, senior dogs, small and short-haired dog breeds in cold or wet weather - consider boots and a sweater/coat if your dog is particularly susceptible to cold weather and doesn't mind being bundled!
- Thoroughly dry feet, legs, and stomach when your dog comes in from the snow.
- Keep an eye on sensitive paw pads, which can be injured from snow, ice and salt spread on sidewalks.
- Do not allow dogs off-leash in a snowstorm - not only is allowing your dog to run at large against the law, but they can easily lose their scent and become disoriented and lost.
- If left outside for extended periods of time (and remember, tethering is prohibited between the hours of 11:00pm and 6:00am), provide dogs

with an adequate shelter that protects against the elements and access to fresh, unfrozen water and food in a non-metal dish.

## CATS

- Cats bodies are not meant to withstand low temperatures, so it's best to keep your cat indoors.
- Outdoor cats will seek warmth in winter, such as the engine of a parked vehicle. Before starting your car, check surroundings for paw prints, bang on the hood, or honk the horn to allow cats a chance to escape.

## SIGNS OF DISTRESS

- Excessive shivering
- Lifting/licking/biting paws
- Refusing to play

If your pet is displaying any of these signs, bring them inside immediately! Or, if you witness another pet in distress due to inclement weather, report it to the New Brunswick SPCA hotline at 1-877-722-1522.

A message from the New Brunswick SPCA

[www.spcanb.ca](http://www.spcanb.ca)

