

WINTER PET SAFETY TIPS

Winter can be fun, and here at CARE STL, we've all been waiting for the first snow of the season!

Here are a few reminders that help keep winter enjoyable for everyone, especially your pets.

1 BEWARE OF ICE/SNOW MELT PRODUCTS

Make sure that the ice/snow melt products you use are pet safe. Many contain ingredients that can cause chemical burns on exposed paw pads. If you are unsure, walk your dog off the main path.

2 KEEP PETS AWAY FROM ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze tastes delicious to dogs but will kill them quickly. Make sure any chemical products, including antifreeze, are kept locked away, out of reach of pets.

3 PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR PET'S PAWS

Exposure to cold and wet conditions outside can cause your pet's sensitive paws to crack. Keep an eye on their paws, and use a barrier paw ointment to make sure that they are protected from cold, moisture, and chemicals.

4 PREVENT COLD EXPOSURE AND FROSTBITE

Keep an eye on if your pet is shivering, and take another look at their paw pads. If they are light brown or white in color, they are close to frostbite and need to be inside and warm. Barrier ointments can help protect paws from chemicals, but not the cold. Also, keep an eye on if your pet is shivering. Consider a dog blanket or dog coat when you take your pet outside. says Geneen Roth.

5 KEEP PETS HYDRATED

Dehydration is common when it's cold because we may not feel as thirsty as when it's warm. The same goes for our pets, so sure that there is always enough easily available water for your pets to drink.

6 LIMIT TIME OUTSIDE

If you're cold, they're cold. Bring your pets inside when it is cold. If you cannot bring them inside, the law requires that you have a shelter that is dry and insulated with something like straw, which the animal can easily access.

Report pets left outside in the cold without shelter. If you see pets left outside in the cold in St. Louis City, contact the CSB at 314-622-4800 to report it and it will be investigated.

CARE STL exists to create a supportive community rooted in collaboration, compassion, and caring for people and animals.

CARE STL is a no-kill, open-admission organization and the official partner for the City of St. Louis in managing the City of St. Louis Animal Care and Control shelter. We give all animals a second chance by working tirelessly to find them loving forever homes, no matter how hard, no matter the cost.

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