



COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS: HOW TO KEEP YOUR PUP WARM, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY THIS WINTER

When the temperatures drop, our furry friends feel it too! While dogs often love playing in the snow, cold weather can bring hidden dangers – from frostbite to icy sidewalks and dry skin. Whether you have a fluffy husky or a short-haired pup, it's important to take extra precautions during the winter months.

Here are essential cold weather safety tips for dogs to help your four-legged family member stay safe and comfortable all season long.

LIMIT TIME OUTDOORS

Even if your dog loves the snow, cold weather can be dangerous after too long.

- **Short-haired, small, or senior dogs** are especially sensitive to the cold.
- Limit outdoor playtime to short bursts, and always supervise.
- When it's below freezing, aim for **10–15 minutes at a time**, then bring your pup inside to warm up.

 **Tip:** Watch for signs your dog is too cold – shivering, lifting paws off the ground, or whining to go inside.



BUNDLE UP WITH DOG SWEATERS OR COATS

Not all dogs have the thick fur needed for winter. A cozy sweater or insulated coat can make a big difference.

- Choose one that covers the chest and belly.
- Avoid anything too tight or with dangling accessories.
- Waterproof outer layers are ideal for snow or slush.



Bonus: Look for reflective materials if you walk your dog early in the morning or after sunset.

PROTECT THOSE PAWS

Cold pavement, salt, and ice can irritate or burn your dog's paw pads.

- Use dog booties for full protection or apply a paw balm before and after walks.
- Wipe your dog's paws when you come inside to remove ice melt chemicals (these can be toxic if licked).
- Trim fur between paw pads to prevent ice balls from forming. If ice balls do form, use a kitchen whisk to get them out of your dog's fur.

CREATE A WARM SLEEPING SPOT

Help your pup stay cozy indoors with:

- A soft bed away from drafts and cold floors.
- Blankets or self-warming pads.
- Elevated beds for extra insulation if your floors get chilly.

⚠️ Avoid placing beds near radiators or space heaters—these can cause burns or overheating.



KEEP HYDRATION UP

It's easy to forget water in the winter, but dogs still need plenty!

- Dry winter air can dehydrate your dog quickly.
- Make sure their water bowl isn't frozen if kept outside.
- Offer room temperature water to encourage drinking after cold walks.



WATCH FOR COLD-RELATED HEALTH RISKS

Just like humans, dogs can suffer from frostbite and hypothermia.

Watch for:

- Pale or grayish skin on ears, paws, or tail
- Shivering, weakness, or lethargy
- Whining or acting anxious to get inside

If you suspect hypothermia or frostbite, bring your dog indoors immediately and call your vet.

BE CAUTIOUS WITH CARS AND ANTIFREEZE



Never leave your dog in a parked car

Even in the cold, it can trap frigid air like a freezer and become a dangerous place for your furry friend quickly.



Wipe up any antifreeze spills

It smells sweet but is highly toxic to pets, even in small amounts.



Knock on your car hood

Outdoor cats and animals sometimes seek warmth near car engines, so doing this before driving will hopefully scare them out.

KEEP ID TAGS AND MICROCHIPS UPDATED

Snowy weather can disorient dogs, and scents they normally follow home may be masked by ice or snow.

- Always use a collar with updated ID tags.
- Make sure your dog's microchip information is current.
- Consider reflective collars or ones with a light for nighttime visibility.



ADJUST DIET AND EXERCISE

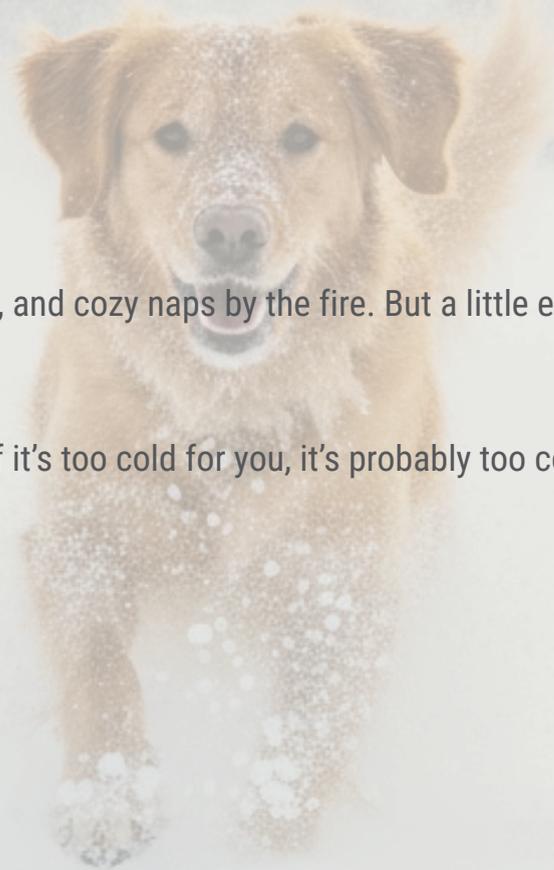
Dogs burn more calories staying warm in winter.

- Active dogs may need a slight food increase if they're exercising the same (check with your vet).
- Less-active pups might need a slight food decrease if they're exercising less (check with your vet).
- Indoor play sessions help keep energy levels balanced.



SHOW EXTRA LOVE AND ATTENTION

Cold, dark days can affect dogs' moods too! Spend time cuddling, grooming, or teaching a new trick indoors. Mental stimulation helps fight off boredom and the winter blues for both of you.



Winter can be magical for dogs – snow zoomies, frosty sniffs, and cozy naps by the fire. But a little extra care goes a long way in keeping them safe and healthy through the cold months.

Bundle up, stay alert for signs of discomfort, and remember: if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your dog too.