

# Keeping Your Dog Warm in the Winter



## Did you know?

In winter, dogs need extra care to avoid health issues like frostbite, paw irritation and hypothermia. Here are some tips to keep your dog safe and comfortable:

## 8 Facts About Dogs in the Winter:



**Dogs can get frostbite.** Most commonly affected areas are their ears, nose, footpads and tail.



**Dogs can get hypothermia.** Very young, old, small, and short-haired dog breeds are more at risk.



**Dog paws can become dry, irritated and cracked** from the cold and low humidity.



**Antifreeze and snow-melting chemicals** can severely harm dogs.



**Cars can become dangerously cold** for dogs very quickly, which can lead to hypothermia.



**Dogs can suffer muscle strains and injuries** from slipping on ice.



**Dogs can get burned by space heaters** or knock them over, potentially starting a fire.



**Dogs can gain weight in the winter** because they are less active.

## On cold days - DO




- Keep your dog indoors and warm with plenty of water.
- Limit outdoor exercise time to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.
- Put a dog winter jacket on (except for heavy-coated northern breeds that thrive in low temperatures).
- Use paw protectors such as boots or paw balm.
- Wash and dry paws with a towel after a walk.
- Provide mental stimulation with puzzle feeders, games, and toys to keep them happy and active.
- Humidify your home to prevent chapped paws and itchy, flaky skin.
- Keep a car kit with water, a bowl, dry food, and a blanket.
- Ensure your dog is microchipped and wearing a well-fitting collar with updated contact information.
- Trim the hair on your dog's feet to prevent painful ice balls from forming between their pads and toes.
- Make your dog more visible by using reflective strips, clothing, or LED collar lights.
- Keep antifreeze and snow-melting products away from pets.

## On cold days - DO NOT

- Leave your dog in the car.
- Bath your dog.
- Walk your dog on ice, frozen ponds or lakes, as they can get injured or fall through.
- Exercise them for long periods outdoors.
- Let them walk in areas with snow-melt chemicals.
- Let them eat snow as it may contain harmful snowmelt chemicals.
- Let your dog lick metal items such as lampposts or metal plates, as they could get tongue injuries or electric shocks.
- Drive with your dog loose in the car. Ensure your dog is in a secure harness with a seat belt or a safe car dog crate.

**Stay vigilant and keep your furry friend warm and safe this winter!**

## How cold is too cold?

°C	°F					<b>Other factors</b>
15°	60°	●	●	●	No evidence of risk. Have fun outside.	+2 If wet weather is present
12°	55°	●	●	●		-1 If Northern breed or heavy coat
10°	50°	●	●	●	Risk is unlikely. Have fun outside, but be careful.	-1 If dog is acclimated to cold
7°	45°	●	●	●		
4°	40°	●	●	●		
1°	35°	●	●	●	Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.	
-1°	30°	●	●	●		
-4°	25°	●	●	●		
-6°	20°	●	●	●	Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.	
-9°	15°	●	●	●		
-12°	10°	●	●	●		
-15°	5°	●	●	●	Potentially life-threatening cold. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.	
-17°	0°	●	●	●		



Source: adapted from The Tufts Animal Condition and Care (TACC) scales