

COLD WEATHER TIPS



With the mercury falling during winter, Absecon Veterinary Hospital advises pet owners to be aware of special precaution and animal care tips to keep their pets healthy, happy, and warm.

There are a variety of dangers associated with cold weather and pets. Pet owners can take a few simple steps to ensure that their pet braves the cold winter months.

Absecon Veterinary Hospital recommends these cold weather precautions:

- Pet owners are encouraged to keep their pets inside whenever possible or to provide appropriate shelter, water, and bedding if the pet must be left outside for any lengths of time during the cold weather. Keep pets indoors for general health conditions such as diabetes, heart and kidney disease, and hormone imbalances. Younger and older pets also have compromised abilities to regulate body heat and should be kept indoors as well.
- Cats are attracted to the warmth of car engines. Check the car, honk the horn or tap the hood before starting the engine because the animal can be seriously, if not fatally, injured if the car is started.
- Pet's food pads often collect rock salt and ice. Prevent irritation by wiping pads with a warm clean washcloth every trip outside.
- If clean, unfrozen water isn't readily available, pets are more likely to drink out of puddles or gutters. This puts animals at risk of poisoning from antifreeze, household chemicals, and other pollutants that end up on the street.
- Pet owners may dress their animals in sweaters or outerwear in an attempt to keep them warm. but keep in mind that pets lose most of their body heat from the pads on their feet. through their ears and respiratory track.

In addition to dropping temperatures, cold weather dangers for pets include precipitation and wind. Just as in humans, pets can suffer from frostbite and hypothermia during the winter months. When in doubt about the weather conditions, it's best to leave pets indoors.

The Absecon Veterinary Hospital is an accredited Hospital member of the American Hospital Association, an international association of more than 22,000 veterinary care providers who treat companion animals. AAHA hospital members are regularly inspected to ensure they meet AAHA's high standards for pet care.