

QT: Why keep pets indoors:

1. Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.
2. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.
3. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm—dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.

QT: Recommended Temp to keep indoors:

HSUS Recommends:

1. *Don't leave pets outdoors when the temperature drops below freezing. Dogs need outdoor exercise but take care not to keep them out for lengthy periods during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks. Dogs and cats are safer indoors in all sorts of weather. Animals should never be left outdoors unattended as they risk being stolen or otherwise being harmed.

Signs of hypothermia include: weak pulse, dilated pupils, decreased heart rate, extreme shivering, pale or blue mucous membranes, body temperature below 95 degrees, stupor and unconsciousness. Consequences of extreme hypothermia may include neurological problems including coma, heart problems and kidney failure. Check with your veterinarian for more information.

QT: Cold Weather Tips

1. Do not keep animals outdoors. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. If that is not possible it is important to provide shelter from the wind and precipitation via an insulated dog house or better yet – a spot in the garage, or other protective structure. Wind-chill = Frostbite.
 - a. When you see dogs left outdoors, provide them with proper shelter. Doghouses should be made of wood (because metal is a poor insulator) and positioned in a sunny location during cold weather. Raise the house off the ground several inches, and put a flap over the door to keep out cold drafts. Use straw for bedding--rugs and blankets can get wet and freeze.
2. Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws and become sick. Also paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice. Using booties or dog mushing boots can help to avoid this.
3. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk.
 - a. If you own a short-haired breed...Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
4. Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.
5. Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs, and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If your puppy appears to be sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him inside.
 - a. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.
 - b. Keep animals inside, particularly puppies and kittens, elderly animals, small animals, and dogs with short hair, including pointers, beagles, pit bulls, Rottweilers, and Dobermans. Short-haired animals will also benefit from a warm sweater or coat on walks.
 - c. Consider frequent shorter walks during the winter.
6. If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities - increase his supply of food, particularly protein —they burn more calories to keep warm so throughout winter will need increased food rations.
7. Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
8. Only use pet friendly sidewalk de-icer... common salts will burn the animal's pads.
9. Having an open water source is of the **UTMOST** importance!!! Always have water available to your companion and any strays or wildlife that you may be caring for.
 - a. Heated dishes are affordable and can be purchased from any farm supply or home store.
10. Stray animals – provide food and water, if possible also provide shelter or place for them to get out of cold – shed, garage, etc.