

FIRST AID FOR HYPOTHERMIA

Symptoms

- The signs of hypothermia are violent shivering followed by slow/shallow breathing, listlessness and apathy, a rectal temperature below 97 degrees F (which is diagnostic) and, finally, collapse and coma.

Treatment

- Wrap your dog in a blanket or coat and carry it into the house. If your dog is wet (having fallen into ice water), give the animal a warm bath. Rub vigorously with towels to dry the skin.
- Warm chilled dogs by applying warm water packs to the armpit, chest and abdomen. The temperature of the packs should be about that of a baby bottle (warm to the wrist: 105-108 degrees F). Continue to change the packs until the rectal temperature reaches 100 degrees F. Warming with a hair dryer or air comb works well. As sensation returns it can be painful, and the dog may attempt to bite at the skin.
- As the dog begins to move about, give some honey or glucose (four tablespoons of sugar added to a pint of water).

FIRST AID FOR FROSTBITE

Symptoms

- Frostbite affects the toes, ears and scrotum. The skin at first is pale white. With the return of circulation, it becomes red and swollen and may begin to peel. Eventually it looks much like a burn, with a line of demarcation between the live and dead tissue. Dead skin separates in one to three weeks.

Treatment

- Warm frostbitten parts with warm water soaks for fifteen to twenty minutes as described above, but don't rub too vigorously. Prevent infection by applying an antibiotic ointment. As sensation returns it can be painful. Prevent the dog from biting at the skin and causing injury.

FACTS ABOUT ANTIFREEZE

- A pet does not have to drink a lot of antifreeze to be poisoned. Most brands of commercial antifreeze consist of 95 percent ethylene glycol, an extremely toxic chemical. Even a few licks of this sweet-tasting liquid can be fatal to a cat or dog.
- Another source of antifreeze are the decorative "snow globes" glassware. The liquid in these displays contain 2% antifreeze and are very toxic.
- Antifreeze poisoning occurs in two stages:
 - ⇒ **Stage 1:** the ethylene glycol in the antifreeze causes a drunken appearance in the animal within about 30 minutes which may continue for several hours. After passing through stage 1, the animal appears to recover.
 - ⇒ **Stage 2:** begins when the dog's liver begins metabolizing the ethylene glycol, changing it into more toxic substances. Within 12 to 36 hours of ingestion, these metabolites have reached such a level that the dog's kidneys stop functioning, and the animal slips into a coma.

Getting the dog to a veterinarian is critical within the first 9-12 hours following ingestion. After that length of time, the liver will have already begun metabolizing the ethylene glycol into substances that cause kidney failure and ultimately death.

- **LOW-TOX ANTIFREEZE IS AVAILABLE** and although still toxic it is not nearly as deadly. Use this instead of the highly toxic ethylene glycol for the safety of all animals.

Sierra (Safe Brands Corp., 1-800-289-7234)
Sta-Clean (Sta-Clean Products, 1-800-825-3464)
Prestone LowTox® Antifreeze/Coolant

WINTER SAFETY

For PETS



MYTH: It's a dog's nature to be outside. They have fur and adjust to the cold weather just fine.

FACT: Just like humans, dogs can get frostbite and hypothermia. Despite their "fur" coats, domesticated animals like cats and dogs depend on humans for protection from elements such as freezing temperatures. This is especially true for small dogs and dogs with short hair.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO HELP MAKE SURE THE PETS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE ALL THE NECESSITIES TO KEEP THEM SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER!

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

1. **Keep pets indoors.** To prevent injury, frostbite and hypothermia/death.
2. **Be alert to frostbite.** Skin can turn red, white or gray and scaly. If you suspect your cat or dog has frostbite, contact your vet.
3. **Keep ID tags on pets.** More pets are lost in the winter than any other time of the year. Pets lose their ability to scent their way home in snow and ice conditions.
4. **Always walk dogs on a leash.** Dogs can become disoriented or lost. Roads are often dangerous in snow conditions with snow plow piles and ice.
5. **Be aware of sheltered cats and wildlife:** Outdoor cats and other animals will often seek shelter beneath the hood of a car and can be killed by fans or belts. Bang on the hood or blow your horn before starting the car.
6. **Never leave pets in the car.** Not for any length of time. Hypothermia and freezing are common in winter.
7. **Be aware of exposure time.** Dogs who are ill, old, very young or short-haired cannot endure prolonged exposure to winter weather. Take them out only to relieve themselves. Coats or sweaters can help avoid problems for dogs who like to play in the snow.
8. **Have a clean up routine.** Keep a towel and maybe moist wipes by the door to clean dog's feet of salt, anti-freeze, and other harmful toxins. Road salt can irritate or burn, as well as cause vomiting and in some pets, cause seizures. Antifreeze has a sweet, attractive smell to pets and can be deadly if ingested. Keep paws, belly and legs clean to avoid problems.

SPECIAL TIPS FOR OUTSIDE DOGS

SHELTER. If your dog spends a lot of time outside or must live outdoors, you are required, by law, to provide them with proper shelter. Without shelter from the cold, an animal can freeze and die. A proper doghouse must be windproof and watertight (cover door with heavy plastic), with a floor raised off the ground. It should be large enough so that the dog is completely comfortable in any position but not too much larger than the dog. In the proper sized doghouse, the animal's own body heat will help keep the house warm. Garages are not proper shelter.

Clean bedding of straw, not cloth blankets which hold water and can freeze, make a dog house more comfortable.

WATER. Make sure your companion animals have plenty of fresh, clean water in a secure, non-tip dish at all times. Check the water bowl frequently to make sure that it hasn't frozen.

You can purchase heated water bowls that prevent the water from freezing for less than \$20.

FOOD. Pets spending a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter. Keeping warm depletes energy. They also need additional fat in their diets during the winter to help build up natural insulation.

Use plastic food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

THESE SIMPLE TIPS CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO YOUR OUTSIDE PET!!

SPEAK UP FOR ANIMALS

If you see an animal without adequate **food, water or housing** or know of an animal being **abused/neglected** please contact your local agency.

City Agencies

Carbondale Animal Control (618)457-3200 ext. 424
Murphysboro Animal Control (618) 684-3121
Chester Animal Control (618) 826-3345
DeSoto Animal Control (618) 867-2315
Elkville Animal Control (618) 568-1966
Marion Animal Control (618) 993-2991

County Agencies

Jackson Co Animal Control (618) 687-7235
Gallatin Co Animal Control (618) 272-7660
Franklin Co Animal Control (618) 439-9197
Jefferson Co Animal Control (618) 244-8024
Johnson Animal Control (618) 658-4111
Massac Co Animal Control (618) 524-7515
Montgomery Co Animal Control (217) 532-5310
Perry Co Animal Control (618) 357-2841
(618) 357-5002
Saline Co Animal Control (618) 252-7859
Union Co Animal Control (618) 833-4915
Williamson Co Animal Control (618) 993-6075
Randolph Co Animal Control (618) 443-3311
Washington Co Animal Control (618) 327-4800

State Agency

Illinois Dept. of Agriculture (217)782-6657
Ask for Animal Welfare Dept.



Rascal says, consider bringing your pet into your home this winter!