

Cold Weather Pet Tips From SPCA

This year's first cold weather is here, and that means it's time to give special attention to your pets. Here are some helpful tips from Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

1

There's No Place Like Home

The best strategy, of course, is to keep your pets indoors during cold weather. Outdoor cats are especially susceptible to hazards like frostbite, getting lost, or being exposed to diseases. If you don't want to be outside, your pet probably doesn't want to be, either.

2 Keep Close

When you do venture outdoors with your dog, keep them on-leash. Snow and rain can wipe away familiar scents, causing your dog to become lost or disoriented. If you live in a very cold area, unsupervised dogs also run the risk of falling through thin ice near ponds or other frozen bodies of water.

3

Bundle Up

A fur coat isn't all the protection your pet needs from the cold, especially if she is short-coated, a puppy or a senior. She might be much

more comfortable in some warm winter-wear, such as a sweater, jacket or booties. Look for coats or sweaters that cover from neck to tail and aren't restrictive or uncomfortable. When indoors, be sure she has a warm, draft-free spot to rest in with lots of bedding. And to keep her skin and

4

Warm As Toast

Wrapping your pet up in an electric blanket all day might sound like a good idea, but leaving an animal unattended with an electric item is a recipe for disaster. SnuggleSafe Pet Heating Pads can be warmed in the microwave and retain heat for 12 hours. They are excellent for tucking in your pet's bedding at night, giving her an extra bit of snuggly warmth as she nods off to dreamland.

5

Potty Problems

When it's cold or rainy out, pets might resist going to the bathroom outside. (And really...wouldn't you?) Work with them to try to keep them comfortable while they do their business—a jacket or rain slicker might help, as would holding an umbrella over them to keep them dry.

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