



Animal Winter Care

Some helpful tips to keep your pet safe in the cold winter months.
Berea Animal Control 440-826-5842

A house dog should be limited to abrupt temperature changes such as occurring when the animal is taken outdoors from a heated house. Time outside should be limited. Monitor your dog and bring it in as soon as it has performed its toilet duties. Small dogs or those with short hair may need a sweater in below freezing weather.

A dog's feet are highly susceptible to cold. If your pet begins to limp, check its feet for signs of frostbite. A close watch should also be kept on your pet's ears, which can become frostbitten. Be wary of jagged ice that may injure your pet's foot pads. Carefully inspect your dog's feet after being out. Salt remaining in cuts made by sharp ice can be extremely painful to the animal.

Ethylene glycol, the major component to antifreeze is very poisonous. It is also very appealing to animals, both dogs and cats. Clean up any antifreeze spilled on the garage floor or driveway. If your pet should ingest this or any other poisonous substance, call a veterinarian immediately.

If you did not adopt your dog from Berea Animal shelter (our adopted dogs must be housed in your home) and you are keeping it outdoors follow these simple guidelines:

Very old or young dogs and cats should never be left outside. No matter what the temperature, or wind chill it can threaten a pet's life. An outdoor dog must be protected by a dry, draft-free dog house that is large enough to allow the animal to sit and lie down comfortably but small enough to hold in its body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with straw, cedar shavings, burlap or other clean bedding. The house should also face away from the wind and have the doorway covered with burlap or a rug.

Outdoor dogs need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your dog's water dishes to make certain the water is **fresh and unfrozen** (pet stores now carry electric water dishes). The area surrounding the doghouse should be well drained. This can be accomplished by providing several inches of smooth gravel. Rough or sharp edged gravel may cut the pads of your dog's feet and is very uncomfortable to walk on.

Keep in mind, warm engines of parked cars attract cats. If you leave your car outside, beep the horn pound on the hood and wait before starting the engine, also salt and chemicals used to melt snow and ice can burn the pads of pet's feet, and antifreeze tastes sweet but **can be** deadly.