Petplan

january common cold

Warm up to winter fun with these pet health tips! Five ways to safely make the most of cold weather



Wondrous white winterscapes are breathtaking to behold, but frigid temperatures, snow and ice can spell trouble

for furry friends. Follow these tips to keep them safe from the elements — as well as the indoor health hazards they create.

Don't leave home before reading our winter travel tip! (Hip on back)

prevent frosty paws

How cold is too cold? For small dogs with thin coats, the danger zone starts as high as the 40s; large Northern breeds may enjoy the teens or lower. Regardless of breed, all pets are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia. So before trekking outside, know their limits, check the weather and outfit them accordingly. Above all, keep them inside during dangerous temperatures!

2) walking in a winter wonderland

A fresh blanket of snow invites exploration and play, but outdoor health hazards can easily spoil the fun. Keep pets from frolicking on frozen ponds and stay alert for sharp objects hidden beneath the snow. When walking near roads, stay extra alert for skidding, sliding traffic. And keep an eye out for driveway puddles, which can contain antifreeze.

3 watch their step

Salt and other toxic de-icers make sidewalks and stairs safer to walk on, but they can also irritate sensitive paws. Booties are perfect if Fido tolerates them; if not, wiping their paws with unscented baby wipes will do the trick. And remember: while regular exercise benefits pets, snow and ice can be tough to navigate especially for arthritic pets. Take extra care to ensure their safety!

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use a fireplace, place a screen in front of it!

4) be heat-wiser

Pets know that nothing cuts through winter chill like warming up beside the fire. Trouble is they may not discriminate between homey hearths and space heaters. Be sure to shoo furry friends away from space heaters, which present a burn and fire hazard, especially if knocked over during play. And if you

Seat belts save lives. So does the right safety harness!

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a measure of restraint

Whether your winter travels lead to Toronto, Tempe or just across town, the first leg is probably in a car. Pet who are "free to roam about the cabin" are at risk of catastrophic injury in the event of an accident — even if it's a simple spinout.

Besides, treacherous driving conditions are difficult enough to handle without a "helper" in your lap.

Keep your furry family members' **health and safety** in mind as you settle into the season and together, you'll make the most of this **"most wonderful time of the year."**

Sniff out more on this topic! Visit GoPetplan.com/Jan2016-health-tip

next month: party pointers!

Learn about the dangers of overindulgence by visiting GoPetplan. com/12-months-pet-health-tips-2016 on February 1.

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