



# WINTER SAFETY GUIDE

Brought to you by:



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## 1 Learn the early signs of hypothermia

- Shivering (mild to severe)
- Weakness & lethargy
- Lack of alertness
- Muscle stiffness
- Low blood pressure
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Reluctance or refusal to go on



## 2 Cut it short when it's freezing

- Generally ~45°F (7°C) or below, start to take precautions
- The colder it is, the shorter your time spent outside
- Spend more of your time inside playing, cuddling, training or warming up



## 3 Beware of ice & slippery surfaces

- Avoid ice whenever possible
- Go slow & take your time
- Wear footwear with traction
- Support older dogs & those with weaker hips using a sling, scarf, towel, etc.
- Dogs that pull on ice can slip & be easily hurt



## 4 Dogs that are more at risk for hypothermia

- Young puppies
- Senior dogs
- Small dogs
- Dogs with short and/or thin coats



*They may need shorter outings & more protection from the cold*

## 5 Protect & care for paws

*Cold can cause dryness & cracking  
Salt can burn paw pads  
Hazards may be hidden under snow*

- Use dog boots to protect
- Apply protective balm to avoid burns & heal paws
- Use pet-safe salt or ice melt



## 6 Utilize winter gear

*To keep dogs warm & protected from the elements*

- Coats & jackets
- Boots (they can be regular boots or rubber)
- Snoods & ear protection



## 7 Never leave dogs in a car or outside

If you must keep it extremely short & leave the heat on if you can



## 8 Avoid snowdrifts, deep snow & frozen water

Dogs can get stuck in deep snow, snow can hide hazards like broken glass, & frozen ponds/lakes are dangerous



## 9 Know normal temperature

Most dogs average between

• 101 - 102.5°F •  
(38.3 - 39.2°C)

Hypothermia can be mild, moderate or severe, depending on how low the body temperature drops below normal



## 10 Make sure pets can stay sufficiently warm

- Make sure heaters work safely
- Provide blankets, warm bedding & access to warm spaces



## 11 Beware of toxins

*Many substances used in winter can attract dogs and/or be easily ingested*

- Anti-freeze → has a sweet taste
- Ice melt & salt → licked off paws
- Pest poisons → from increased activity



## 12 Special care for seniors

*Winter can aggravate conditions like arthritis, stiffness & soreness*

- Keep them warm!
- Give extra support
- Go slow & be patient

