

## **Protecting Your Pet in Cold Weather**

As winter nears and the temperature drops, central Pennsylvania residents take steps to prepare for the cold. However, it is important that local pet owners also take steps to protect their animals from winter conditions.

These simple tips will ensure a healthy winter for local pets:

- Clean off your dog's legs and stomach after being in the snow to prevent snow or ice from cutting his paws. Dangerous salt and other chemicals can also be ingested if it is not promptly cleaned from your dog.
- **Do not let your dog off the leash in the snow or ice**. Dogs can lose their scent and become lost if they are not kept on a leash.
- Adjust your dog's food supply to keep him at a healthy weight. Dogs who are less active in the winter should eat less food, while dogs who spend a lot of time being active in the outdoors should eat more.
- **Do not shave your dog** in the winter. A longer coat helps to maintain warmth.
- **Keep cats indoors** to prevent freezing or injury.
- **Do not leave your pet in a vehicle in cold weather.** Much like the heat of summer, the cold of winter can be deadly to a pet left in a vehicle.
- Clean up antifreeze and coolant spills to prevent ingestion by your pets.

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