



The Royal Treatment

Veterinary Center

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Protecting Your Pets in Cold Weather

- **Know the limits of your pet -**
 - **If you see Shivering, whining, barking, unwilling to walk, anxious, slows down, lifts one or two paws, becomes lame, seems weak or dazed, get them inside!**
 - **Age – young and old.**
 - **Haircoat – wear coats/booties!**
 - **Health – heart disease, cushings, arthritis, diabetes, thyroid, kidney disease have more trouble regulating their temperature and may respond poorly to cold.**
 - **Length of legs (yes) – tummies contact snow.**
- **Shortened walks may make pets lose muscle tone and conditioning. Provide options/creative ways to keep pets healthy in cold weather – we have a land treadmill and UWT here, or play games indoors – hide treats, fetch, walking over rolled up towels, on couch cushions on floor...**
- **Coconut oil for dry flakey skin (1 tsp for a 20# dog, 1 tbsp for dogs >50# - even cats may like a little) and don't overbathe in winter – use Murphy's oil soap to keep skin oils intact. Joint supplements are more important in cold weather. Omegas and turmeric, even a little cinnamon for warming.**
- **Make noise when you start your car (cats find car engines warm places to sleep at night) - honk the horn, bang the hood, check under your car!**
- **More pets get lost in winter! Ice and snow can affect sense of smell/landmarks – pets can get lost more easily. Be sure you have a microchip and collar on your pet!**
- **Use Pet-safe de-icers on your sidewalk and stairs. Try to use booties/musher's wax on feet. If they are barefoot on sidewalks with street salt -- wipe down paws after walks – salts can be toxic if they lick up too much.**
- **Don't leave pets in a cold car!**
- **Avoid going near frozen ponds/rivers/lakes, dogs can break through ice.**
- **Pets burn more energy keeping cold. Good quality food with plenty of protein and fat, and LOW carbs keep bodies healthy and thermoregulating well. I like animals in winter to have a little extra fat on them, and I like them thinner in the summer. Not significantly overweight, just enough to keep warmer.**
- **Make sure sleeping place is draft-free, safe and comfy. Offer options. Carbon monoxide – check furnace and put detectors up check batteries.**