

Hypothermia Symptoms in Dogs and Cats

- violent shivering, followed by listlessness
- lethargy
- problems breathing
- rectal temperature below 98°F
- cardiac arrest
- weak pulse
- muscle stiffness
- lack of appetite
- coma

Hypothermia Treatment

- Wrap pet in a warm blanket or coat (warmed in the dryer for a few minutes).
- Bring pet into a warm room.
- Give pet a solution of four teaspoons honey or sugar dissolved in warm water to drink. You can also put 1-2 teaspoons of corn syrup on the gums if your pet is too weak to drink. This provides an immediate energy boost.
- Place warm, towel-wrapped water bottles against pet's abdomen or at her armpits and chest; wrap her in a blanket. **Do not use** hair dryers, heating pads, or electric blankets to warm up a hypothermic pet as this may result in burns or cause surface blood vessels to dilate
- Call your veterinarian immediately.

Frostbite Signs in Dogs and Cats

Frostbite happens when a part of your pet's body freezes. For cats, that may involve the paws, tail, or ears; for dogs, the tail, ears, foot pads, or scrotum. Severe winter weather, especially when windy or humid, can lead to frostbite.

Watch for:

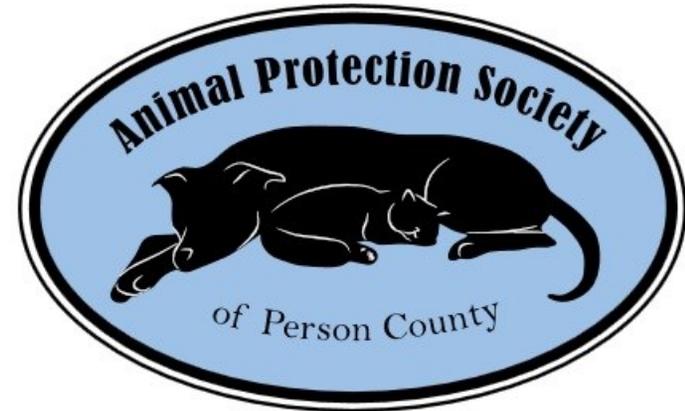
- pale, gray, or blue skin at first
- pain in ears, tail, or paws when touched
- shriveled skin
- red, puffy skin later
- skin that stays cold

Frostbite Treatment

- Apply warm (not hot) water for at least 20 minutes to the frostbitten area. **Do not use hair dryers**, heating pads, or electric blankets to warm up a frostbitten pet as this may cause burns.
- Handle the affected areas very carefully; don't rub or massage them as you could cause permanent damage.
- Call your vet immediately.

It doesn't take much to keep our pets safe when things get frosty. Just like us, our feline and canine friends need shelter, warmth, food, and care. When winter's chill sends you scurrying indoors, don't forget your furry four-footed pals and their simple needs this season.

Information from: WebMD



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BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze or become disoriented.

Make sure your companion animal has a **warm place to sleep**, off the floor and away from all drafts. Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors should have a warm, dry, draft-free, covered shelter (preferably in a garage, shed, or beneath a carport or porch awning).

Warming that shelter with bedding you check daily is important. **Wet bedding can be fatal** to a pet.

DID YOU KNOW: If an animal's coat gets wet, the fur loses much of its insulating ability. This goes for bedding, as well! Make sure outdoor bedding is dry!

Sweaters can help, but puppies, kittens, and older dogs & cats shouldn't be outside no matter how well-dressed.

After each walk, **wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach** to remove ice, salt and chemicals. Don't forget to check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.

Tips from: ASPCA, WebMD

DON'T FORGET!

Winter Animal Poisons: Coolant, Antifreeze, Chocolate, Holly Berries & Leaves, Poinsettias, and Tinsel. They are attractive to pets but VERY dangerous!

Beware of Cats Sheltering In & Under Cars: In cold weather, cats will seek shelter anywhere they can. Even if you haven't run your car in days, a cat may still seek the nominal protection found in your car's engine compartment. Tap on the hood and check above tires before starting your car.

Cars Are Not Safe in Summer or Winter: Don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.

Fresh Water: Be sure that fresh, unfrozen water is available to your pet every day. You can find inexpensive warmers to keep your pet's water from freezing.

CHOW TIME!

Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. **Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months** can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.

PROTECTING THE SKIN, FUR, TOES, & NOSE!

Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet, and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin!

Also, Your pet's toes, nose, and ears are even more vulnerable to chilly temps. How to keep skin from getting itchy and flaky:

Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells.

Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin.

Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside

Paying special attention to his feet and in-between the toes.
Remove any snow balls from between his foot pads.

Massage petroleum jelly into paw pads before going outside.

This can help protect your pet from salt and chemical agents!

Also, dogs and cats are inclined to **lick chemicals** from ice-melting agents from their bare paws. Clean them off!

Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter!

Simply trim hair to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry his skin. Don't neglect the hair between his toes.