COLD WEATHER TIPS

KEEP YOUR PET SAFE IN THE COLD

Pets can get cold and suffer injuries like frostbite on the tips of their ears, tail and paws. If they are willing to wear them, you can get them a coat and/or booties for warmth and protection. When the temperature falls below 0°C, keep outside walks shorter than usual, especially if your dog is older, has shorter fur, is a toy breed, has medical issues or is more sensitive to the cold.

SALT AND ICE MELT – PROTECT THEIR PAWS

Salt and ice melts used on sidewalks can hurt your dog's paws. Clean paws with warm water and towel dry them when you get back from a walk. **Tip:** you can use a plastic cup filled with lukewarm water and dip your dog's paw in and then towel dry them off. You can also massage petroleum jelly into their pads as a layer of protection before walks.

SIGNS OF FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA IN PETS

- Pale, blueish or grey skin
- Swelling and painful to the touch
- Blisters
- Areas of blackened skin
- Shivering
- Pale or grey gums
- Lethargic
- Stumbling or unable to stand up or walk

TREATMENT – WHEN YOU GET INSIDE, WARM THEM UP!

Place frostbitten areas in a bowl of lukewarm water. Pat them dry and do not rub or massage the area. **DO NOT** use direct dry heat, such as a hairdryer or heating pad. If you warm up the area too quickly, it can cause more damage and be very painful. ***Take your dog to see a veterinarian right away for additional care and treatment.***

KEEP YOUR DOG BUSY INSIDE

- Hide treats or kibble around your home.
- Have stairs? If you and your dog are able, walk up and down the stairs in your building.
- Work for their meals! Create your own treat mat with a towel or thin blanket.

SPRINKLE KIBBLE

ROLL IT UP

TWIST IT

TIE A KNOT or TWO

RELEASE THE HOUND!

ANTIFREEZE ALERT

Antifreeze is a chemical used in cars. It contains ethylene glycol which is extremely poisonous to pets! Antifreeze is bright **green/yellow** in colour and tastes sweet to pets. Don't let your pet have a taste. ***If you suspect your pet has licked antifreeze, get them to the veterinarian right away. They will not get better without emergency treatment.***

BCSPCA