



HAPPY PAWLIDAYS!

FROM THE RIEMERSMA FAMILY AND STAFF AT ARF

THE VIP (VERY IMPORTANT PETS) NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

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6 Winter Safety Tips for Dogs in Snow

From our friends at Purina <https://www.purina.com/articles/dog/care/winter-safety-tips-for-dogs-in-snow>



There's nothing quite like watching a dog experience snow for the first time. Not all dogs are suited for outdoor play in cold weather, though. Our experts offer winter safety tips for dogs in snow so they can enjoy the winter wonderland.

Some dogs have thick coats designed to withstand cold temperatures, whereas others have thin coats that don't keep them warm. When it comes to spending time outside this winter, use your best judgment. Consider the thickness of your dog's coat and his age, as puppies and senior dogs have a harder time regulating their body temperature.

A good rule of thumb is if it's too cold for you in your winter coat, it's too cold for your dog. Here are some other winter safety tips from one of our expert veterinarians.

How to Protect Your Dog in Snow & Ice

1. Gradually Acclimate to the Cold

According to Dr. Ruth Ann Lobos, veterinarian and Purina's Senior Manager of Training, "The key is acclimation. If they seem fine and aren't shivering or trying to get in, it's perfectly fine for them to stay outside for longer periods as long as they're building up to it." Start with short sessions outside and slowly increase so they have time to adjust. ARF Team members are constantly checking the condition of your pets while out in the cold climate, we enjoy the snow is short sessions multiple times a day, We also have a fun climate controlled indoor play space.

2. Make Potty Time More Efficient

Try shoveling a patch of grass for potty time so they have a spot to go right away. If there are areas with more protection from snow, ice and wind, encourage your pup to go there instead. Give treats after to reinforce the good behavior and discourage accidents inside.

3. Keep an Eye Out for Rock Salt & Antifreeze

Rock salt isn't toxic, but it may upset their stomach if ingested and can irritate their paws. Antifreeze tastes sweet but is toxic. Look for blue or green-colored substances on driveways, sidewalks and cars and keep dogs away from those spots. Wipe off their paws before they come inside to remove any salt or antifreeze residue they might lick off. This will also warm the paws faster. ARF only uses pet friendly melting salts for the walkways and sand for the driveway and parking lot, making the farm a safe place to play and be dogs.

4. Learn How to Warm them Up

If your dog seems cold, cover him with a towel or blanket. You can also use a blow dryer on a low setting, but don't heat his paw pads, as they could burn. Instead, heat up some rice in a sock (place against your wrist to ensure it's not too hot). If you know your dog gets cold easily, stock up in advance on sweaters, coats and booties. ARF always has your pets comforts first that why we have in floor radiant heat, perfect for sitting/ laying right on the floor if they aren't a fan of the karanda beds or couches, not to mention all the snuggles that get given out to every pet to warm up.

5. Protect Dog Paws in Winter

For cracked paw pads, use a moisturizer made for cow udders to soothe your dog's paws. After applying, keep him busy with a puzzle feeder or treat so he doesn't lick it off immediately. To protect your dog's paws in winter and prevent cracked pads, try putting your dog in booties. Otherwise clean his paws every time he comes inside. ARF has a wonderful paw balm for sale in the office of the farm, perfect to keep those paws crack free.

6. Don't Neglect Exercise

Idle time can lead to destructive or nervous behavior due to pent-up energy. Once you've acclimated your dog and prepared for cold weather, [continue walking your dog in winter](#) and let him play outside. You could even get creative and build a small agility course out of piles of snow. If conditions are too cold or icy, consider an indoor gym for dogs or give them a puzzle feeder or play indoor [games to keep them busy](#). By following the above tips, your dog can enjoy the snow and play to his heart's content. For more pet safety tips, advice and answers to frequently asked questions, [click here](#).

ARF's daycare and boarding offers ample exercise to burn energy in a positive and fun way, your pet will have the opportunity to use our exhilarating play structures, chase balls and play exciting games the attendants create both indoors and outdoors.

NEWS AND UPDATES

- Santa Paws portraits available as an add on, now until December 31.
- Christmas eve the farm will be open regular hours, 7am-6pm for arrivals and departures
- Christmas day the farm office will be closed.
- Christmas day Santa Paws will be coming to town brining the farm lots of new toys for the year.
- If you would like to bring a wrapped gift for your pet that is boarding, we will have a special time for them to open their gift.
- GIFT CERTIFICATES are available and are a perfect gift for the hard to buy for on your list.
- The farm requires a 50% deposit at time of booking to hold your boarding reservation.
- New Years day ARF Office is closed.
- Bring your pets jacket and boots if you think your pets need it.
- Refer a friend promotion is on for the month of December, watch for social media post With full details.

