

# 17 Winter Safety Tips for Pets

## 1 Off-leash? It's a no-no

Always keep your pets on their leash as there are many dangers about out in the streets like icefalls or vehicular accidents.



## 2 Winter stroll

Go to walk only in the late mornings or early afternoons and let them walk or play outdoors only when it's sunny. Do not allow your pet to lick their paws or anything on the driveways or roadways.



## 3 Warm jackets

Let your pet wear jackets, sweaters, or high-collar turtle necks to keep them warm. This is a must, especially for short-haired dogs.



## 4 Cars can act as refrigerators

Never leave your pet inside a vehicle. Cars can hold in the cold and act as refrigerators during the cold season, possibly freezing your pet to death.



## 5 Cats in your car

Before starting your engine, bang on your car's hood or honk your horn. Outdoor cats would most likely seek refuge under the hood of your vehicle because of its warm engines.



## 6 Antifreeze and coolants

Antifreeze and coolants are deadly poisons for your pets. Keep pets away from these chemicals. Thoroughly remove any trace of these after use. Ingesting antifreeze is a severe emergency. Contact your veterinarian immediately.



## 7 Prep your pet before going out

Consider massaging your pet's paws with petroleum jelly to protect their feet from salt and chemicals. Dog boots can also help in preventing your pets from itchy flaking skin and from licking their paws, which can be dangerous.



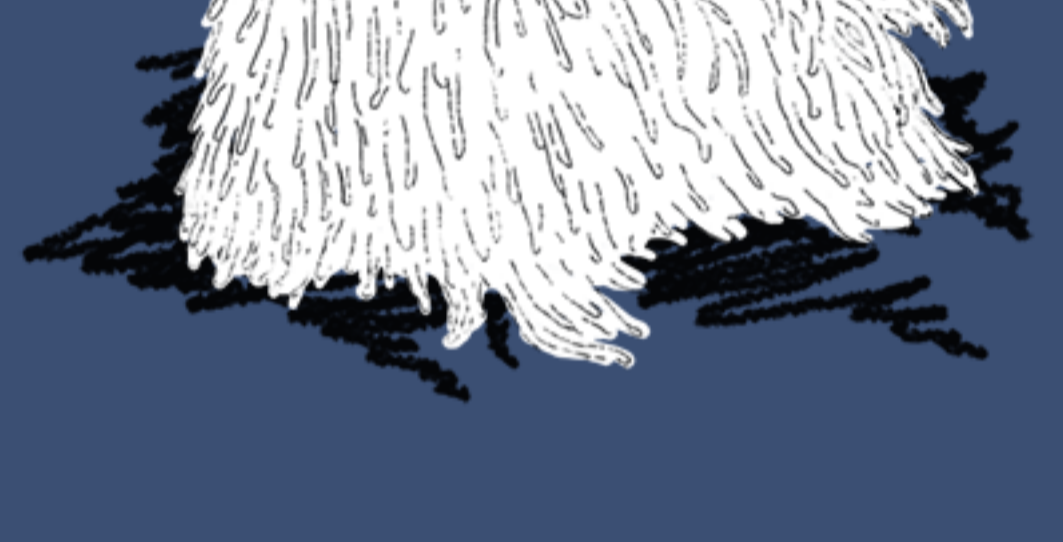
## 8 Attention on pet's feet

After walks, immediately remove snowballs stuck in-between your pet's footpads. Don't forget to wash and dry your pet's feet to remove ice, salt, or chemicals in feet and check for cracks on paw pad or redness in your pet's toes.



## 9 Yes to trimming, no to cutting

The longer the fur, the better to give your pet some extra warmth in winter. Don't shave your dog down to its skin.



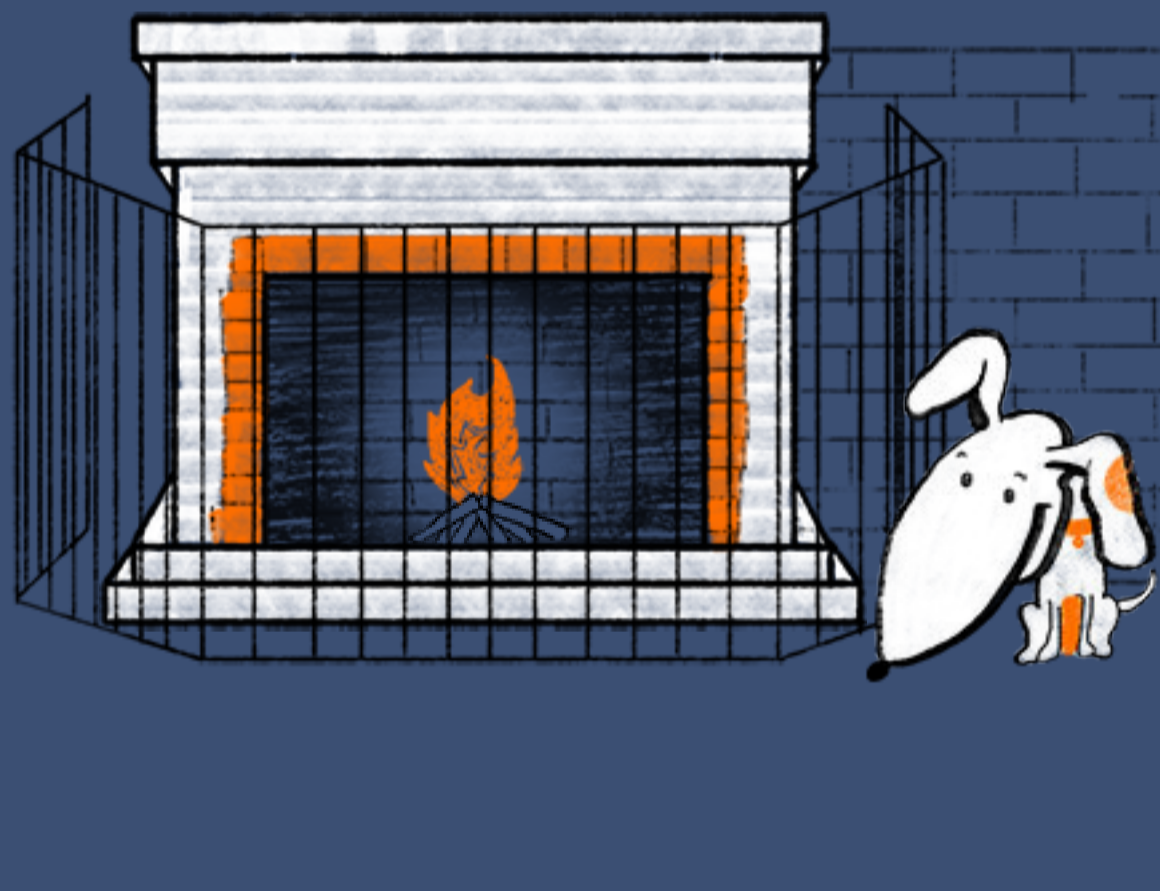
## 10 Pet baths? Not too often, no.

Give your pets a bath as little as possible. As it's still necessary to give your pets a bath, give them some moisturizing shampoo and conditioner to help their skin be kept moisturized.



## 11 Pet-proof your home

Screen your fireplace and wood-burning stoves to prevent your pet from burning themselves. This is especially true for space heaters as once knocked over, it can cause a fire in your home.



## 12 More food or less food?

Adjust your pet's meal depending on their activity level. More active pets will need more food, while some pets who may not want to go out even for a potty break will need less food. Consult your vet about adjusting your pet's diet.



## 13 Indoor exercises

Ensure your pet stays fit by playing with your pet indoors. If your pet is food motivated, you can incorporate play during mealtime and let them follow some tracks, throw a kibble, and have them chase it down the hallway.



## 14 More tepid water, please!

Always give your pet a fresh supply of water to keep it hydrated and prevent skin from getting dry at all times. Try using plastic or ceramic bowls rather than metal to prevent them from being cold.



## 15 Keep warm and cozy at home

Keep in mind that if it's too cold for you outside, the same goes for your pets. Remember as well that young and senior pets are extra sensitive to cold, tuck them up with a warm blanket when in bed.



## 16 Blizzard checklist

If you're located in a blizzard-prone area, best to have a look on your blizzard checklist ready and make sure you're all stocked up. Best to have these things kept in one place for easy access.



## 17 Whole-year round prevention

Though fleas and ticks are not active in looking for a host in winter, they become opportunists waiting for their next prey to come and for them to grab onto. Keep pets on their flea and tick prevention the whole year-round.



Sources:

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- [2. https://njvma.org/winter-pet-tips/](https://njvma.org/winter-pet-tips/)
- [3. https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/evr\\_multi\\_caring\\_for\\_pets\\_during\\_winter](https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/evr_multi_caring_for_pets_during_winter)
- [4. https://www.petmd.com/dog/parasites/do-fleas-survive-winter](https://www.petmd.com/dog/parasites/do-fleas-survive-winter)