



**NORTHLAND
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL**

Northland Animal Hospital Newsletter

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Brrr.....Winter Has Arrived!

Here are a few tips to help keep your pets safe and warm through the cold winter blizzards.

Stay warm! Be sure to keep kitties inside and make dog bathroom trips short and quick.

Wear a jacket. If you plan on being outside for longer periods with your dog, be sure that he can handle the cold. Some dog breeds like **Huskies** have thick coats that are made for cold weather. If your dog has a thinner coat, consider buying a sweater or jacket for your pup.

Wipe off paws after coming inside. Whether your dog's paws have collected salt, sand, or clumps of snow, it's important to wipe all of these off before coming inside. Some salts or de-icing chemicals can burn your dog's paws.



Keep an ID tag on your pets. It is easier for pets to become lost during the winter months when snow and ice cover up scent trails that they use to find their way home.

Never leave pets alone in a car. Cars not only get too hot in the summer, but will also get very cold in the winter. It's best to leave pets at home where they can stay warm.

Bang on the hood of your car. Small animals (especially cats) will seek shelter near the engine of your car so protect them by giving them a warning before starting your vehicle.

Know the Signs of Frostbite and Hypothermia

Sometimes, despite our best efforts to keep our pets warm, the plunging temperatures outside can be just too much and can affect our pets and their body temperatures. It is important to recognize and understand the signs of frostbite and hypothermia just in case your pets are exposed to the cold for too long this season.

Common hypothermia symptoms in dogs and cats include problems breathing, violent shivering, a weak pulse, lack of breathing and more. If this happens, bring your pet into a warm room and call your veterinarian immediately.



HOLIDAY PET HAZARDS



Fallen Christmas Tree Needles – Be sure to remove any fallen needles as these are sharp and can get stuck in your pet's fur, paw or throat.

Tinsel and Ribbon – Pets (especially cats) love the lure of ribbons and tinsel. We advise not using tinsel (icicles) on your tree and keep the ribbons away from your furry friends as these can quickly become intestinal foreign bodies.

Festive Houseplants – Cats are notorious for eating plants. Unfortunately many holiday plants are toxic. Some common ones include: Poinsettia, Amaryllis, Lilies, and Holly.

Chocolate – Chocolate is for humans only! The chemical, theobromine, in it is toxic to most animals. The darker the chocolate the more toxic it is.

Christmas Lights – Tuck cords out of the way and tape down where possible to avoid accidental electrocution or fire due to chewing.

Christmas Tree – Protect your tree and pet by ensuring the tree is well anchored.

Loud Festive Noises – Remember loud, unusual noises such as crackers, fireworks, balloons, champagne bottles may frighten your pet.

Leftover Christmas Dinner - Fatty, spicy and various other human foods as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

Christmas Punch and other Alcohol - If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

Guests - Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.