



A Human Guide Canine Winter Safety



This Guide

This handy guide for humans will give you advice of how to keep your dog safe during winter, as well as some tips to keep them happy and healthy.

Winter Walks

Snow can be unusual and exciting for dogs, so we'd advise keeping them on a lead if it is snowing heavily. Dogs can become easily disorientated when their usual environment is compromised by snow. Always keep your dog on a short lead if walking near roads, as cars can easily lose control in icy conditions.

The grit from the roads and dampness from rain or snow can irritate your dogs' skin so it's important that you wipe your dogs' legs, feet and stomach after each walk. If you do notice them overly scratching or signs of irritation, then speak with your vet and follow their advice.



Avoid walking on frozen ponds, or areas where water is present. The ice may not be thick enough to take their weight. If your dog does fall through the ice, then encourage them to swim back to you and then call the emergency services. If you live in a rural area, where ponds are common, we would advise keeping your dog on a lead, to avoid any potential hazards.

It is always important to make sure your dog is wearing a collar, with an ID Tag and is microchipped. If you've recently moved to a new house, you will also need to update the details with your microchip supplier. Make sure your ID Tag has your dog's name, your last name, phone number and first line of address on.

Regularly check your dog's lead, collars and harnesses for wear and tear. Damage can easily occur during the winter weather so it's important to make sure they are all functioning properly. Wet and cold weather can cause metal clips to rust, so be vigilant to look for any signs of rusting.



Anti-Freeze

Antifreeze is highly poisonous to dogs, so keep it locked away and out of reach. If you do spill any, clean it up immediately with a non-toxic cleaning solution.

Keeping Active

It can be difficult to keep dogs physically exercised during these dark evenings, especially when public parks are often closed at night.

By changing your walking routine, you can provide new entertainment for your dog when parks are closed in the evening. Try walking a different route to provide your dog with new sights, sounds and smells.

Incorporate some training into your walks to liven them up. Take treats with you and reward your dog for doing a trick along each road you walk down. You can also try leaving treat trails for them to guide them to a certain place and then reward them when they reach it.

Playing indoor games can also keep them active, as well stimulate them during darker nights. Try hiding their toys around the house for them to search for, and then reward them when they find them.

Keeping Warm

When the weather gets colder, let your dog's winter coat grow if you can. If you have a puppy, short-haired or older dog, then you may want to buy them a winter dog coat.

If you are walking when it's dark, it's also a good idea to ensure your dog is visible with a flashing collar or high-vis jacket.



Winter Wear

If your dog has never worn a coat or harness before, it's important to introduce it carefully so your dog finds it both comfortable and enjoyable to wear. Dogs can sometimes find it difficult having items such as harnesses and coats placed over their heads and around their bodies.

By following these simple steps, you will effectively introduce a coat to your dog and protect them against the winter cold.

- 1** Before you attempt to put the coat on your dog, lay it on the ground and put a few tasty treats on the coat so they can sniff and investigate it.

- 2** Once your dog is familiar with the coat, lift the coat and feed your dog a treat through the opening of the coat. Gradually move your hand a little further back to encourage your dog to move their nose and mouth through the opening to get their treats.

- 3** Once your dog is comfortable with putting their head through the coat, you can place it on their body, continuing to give them treats. If at any point your dog is uncomfortable or retreats from the coat, remove it and feed them anyway.

Try again another time and take it back a step if necessary. Once your dog is comfortable having the coat put on, they'll need to learn to get used to the feel of it and how it affects their natural movement.

Scatter feeding and letting them just move around to find the treats on the ground can help to distract and reward them.



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This Human Guide to Canine Winter Safety, was made with love by Mad Dog Grooming.

We care about the welfare of each and every dog and continue to invest our time in educating Humans on the really important stuff related to their canines.

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