

Cold Weather Tips to Keep Pets Safe and Warm

With an arctic blast heading towards Portland, here are some things you can do to keep your pets safe and warm:

- Clean up anti-freeze spills immediately and completely. Ethylene glycol, the main ingredient in almost all major antifreeze brands, has an inviting aroma, a sweet flavor—and a deadly aftertaste. Its appealing smell and taste often tempt animals and children to drink the highly poisonous substance. Better yet, purchase anti-freeze with a bittering agent added; this will keep your cat from lapping up this sweet tasting toxin.

It is estimated that 10,000 animals dies from antifreeze poisoning every year - family pets, neighbors' pets, and wildlife coming into contact with spills. **California, Oregon, and New Mexico require a bittering agent be added to ethylen glycol antifreeze to make it unappealing to animals and children.**

- Bring and keep outdoor pets inside – this includes indoor/outdoor cats. Cats can get frostbite on ears and feet if left outside when the temperature drops.
- Outdoor cats seeking warmth may crawl into car engines. Before starting any car parked outside, open or bang on the hood.
- If you are feeding feral cats, provide more food during the cold snap. And make sure water bowls are free from ice.
- For your indoor kitty, keep her on a steady and consistent diet to avoid winter weight gain.
- Keep electric heaters in a safe place where they cannot be overturned by a curious pet.
- Remember to keep the fireplace screen shut so no pet is tempted to snuggle too close to the burning embers

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The Cat Adoption Team (CAT) is the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit, no-kill cat shelter with its own full service veterinary hospital on-site. CAT's mission is to work with the community to save the lives of homeless, sick and injured cats and kittens by offering shelter, adoption, foster, hospice, spay/neuter, and veterinary services to end needless feline euthanasia in our community. CAT, a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported charity, will save over 3,100 lives this year and relies heavily on the support of the public and generous volunteers.

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