

# CAPITAL INSURANCE AGENCY OF WISCONSIN

## Eight Winter Tips For Your Pet

It's the perfect weather for fluffy snuggles with your favorite four-legged friend, but the dry air and freezing temperatures can be just as dangerous to our pets as they are to us. As the weather begins to turn, it's important to prep your home for winter, and that includes taking some extra safety precautions for your pets. Here are some tips to keep your four-legged family members warm and snuggly-safe until spring is officially here.

1. **Add a few layers.** While our furry friends have a bit more fluff to help protect them from the cold, the Humane Society warns that windchill can still be dangerous for our pets. Exposed skin on their ears, nose and paw pads could be at risk for frostbite or hypothermia. Be sure to add a sweater before letting them explore any snowy winter scenes.
2. **Protect their paws.** Rock salts and other deicing chemicals can irritate your pet's paws, and their stomachs if they decide to lick their paws after a recent walk. Add some booties to their winter wardrobe or be sure to check and wipe their paws off after each walk to get rid of the salt. Pro tip: you can even add some petroleum jelly to their paws before each walk to limit salt pickup.
3. **Throw on the humidifier.** Just like us, our pets' skin can get dry and flaky in the winter. Keep an eye out for flakes, add some extra moisture to the air and maybe include some moisturizing shampoo in their bathing routine.
4. **Skip the haircut.** While regular grooming is a must, even long-haired dogs need that extra layer of fur this time of year. If they do need a trim, be sure to check the hair in-between their toes.
5. **Keep poisons out of reach.** Antifreeze is dangerous when ingested, so keep that and other common household poisons away and out of reach from pets and children.
6. **Take extra care during the holidays.** From yummy food, shiny decorations and family coming and going, your pet may be overwhelmed and introduced to new dangers.
7. **Maintain some exercise.** While the weather outside is frightful, we can't stay bundled up inside all season long. Consider finding an indoor pet park to visit or grab some extra toys for inside play time.
8. **Take shelter.** Depending on where you live, it can be a crime to leave pets outside in extreme temperatures. Before you leave, make sure your pet is safe and warm in their shelter. Call local law enforcement if you notice any animals that have been left out in the cold.