



## COLD WEATHER PET CARE TIPS

- **Shelter.** Your pet should be part of the family and live inside the home. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep away from all drafts and off the floor, such as in a bed or crate with a warm blanket in it. Keep cats indoors, year-round. Outside, cats can freeze, become lost or stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to fatal infectious diseases. Cats also prey on wildlife.
- **Car engines.** In cold weather, cats allowed outdoors crawl beneath cars and climb up inside engines seeking warmth and shelter. This can lead to injuries or death when car engines are started. To prevent such a tragedy, keep your cat inside. To protect stray cats, knock on your car's hood or sound your horn before starting your car in cold weather.
- **Anti-freeze.** Animals are attracted to this substance by its sweet taste. It can be fatal if ingested, so keep all anti-freeze bottles out of your companion animal's reach. Also be sure to clean up any spills in your garage or driveway immediately.
- **Frostbite.** Even though companion animals have a fur coat, most dogs and cats cannot endure the cold of winter for more than ten to fifteen minutes. A companion animal left outdoors can get frostbite and even freeze to death. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age or illness, or if it is a short-haired breed, get him a coat or sweater and take him outdoors only to relieve himself.
- **Ice, Salt, and Snow.** Jagged ice and sidewalk salt can injure your dog's foot pads. After you return home from a walk, check his or her foot pads and wipe off any salt or ice with a damp towel. Also, dry your dog thoroughly whenever he or she comes in from the snow, sleet, or rain.
- **Grooming.** Animals tend to shed less hair during the cold months, but still require regular brushing. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter. Leave the coat longer for more warmth. When you bathe your dog, dry him completely before taking him out for a walk.
- **Food.** If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities, increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep his fur thick and healthy.