



WINTER CARE FOR PETS

General Rule: A good "rule of thumb" for the feeding of all animals is 2% of body weight for adult dogs and cats. Puppies, kittens and & pregnant animals need around 5% of body weight per day of good quality food.

Animal (Adult)	Average weight	Normal Temperatures	Very cold Temperatures
Dog	40#	12.8 oz/day	24oz/day
Cat	10#	3-4oz/day	5-6oz/day



Note: Generic food, store brand...etc. (least expensive type) contain a majority of fillers. "Fillers" are products used to make the animal feel full - But does not supply enough energy in the winter. Animals must eat more of this type of food to stay warm. Note: NEVER use dog food to feed a cat (Not enough protein) WATER INTAKE: Pets should have clean water without limits at all time, year round. During the winter, two major reasons for sick animals are, NOT getting enough to eat, and poor housing (getting too cold). Correct these two problems will decrease animal sickness greatly. Vaccinations and deworming will also improve the ability of small animals to get through the winter, without costly veterinarian bills.

Winter's cold air brings many concerns for responsible pet owners. Keep the following precautions in mind:

- Don't leave your dog/cat outside in the cold for long periods of time.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Use old clothes/bedding for insulation. Temporary door cover or make shift flap to hold heat in.
- Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary.
- Antifreeze, which often collects on driveways and roadways, is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, it can be lethal.
- Provide plenty of fresh water. Your dog/cat is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water. (To make breaking ice up easier put a small floating ball in the container)
- Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Take your dog to a veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms.
- Don't use over-the-counter medications on your dog without consulting a veterinarian.
- Before starting your car in the morning BANG on your hood or HONK the horn then give kitty enough time to get out.
- Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your dog's feet after a walk.