
❖ PAWS FOR SOME NEWS ❖

A Service of Blum Animal Hospital - 3219 N. Clark - Chicago, IL 60657 - (773) 327-4446

Cold Weather Tips

Dr. Shelly Rubin, Chief of Staff at Blum Animal Hospital encourages pet owners to keep their pets inside whenever possible during cold weather or to provide appropriate shelter, water and bedding if the pet must be left outside for any length of time. Animals suffer from the cold weather, just like we do, only they aren't as obvious about it.

Following are some cold weather health and safety tips from Dr. Rubin:

- Dogs should not be made to run or exercise in frigid weather. Breathing in cold air can be damaging to the lungs, especially in geriatric animals and pets with heart or respiratory disease.
- Short hair dogs should wear coats or sweaters.
- Paws should be washed in warm water after a walk outside. The salt is very irritating to the tender pads.
- Salt is irritating to the gastro-intestinal system - try to avoid eating or licking of the substance.
- Frost bite is a danger for ears and tails.
- If a dog lives outside, it must be provided with a shelter, raised off of the ground, insulated and with the opening facing South or West. A non-freezing supply of water must be available.
- Do not let pets drink from any puddles on the ground. These puddles could contain antifreeze which is quite toxic in even small amounts.
- Cats should never be left outside.
- Stray cats seek warmth under car engines, or in car engines after they are parked. Before starting in the morning, honk your horn or knock on your hood, it will prevent a tragedy from occurring.

