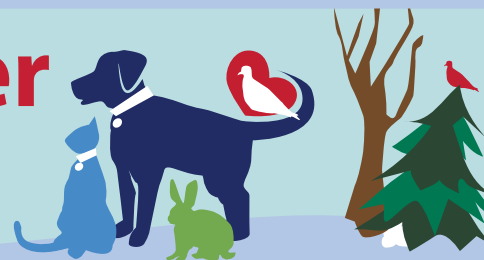




Animal Winter Safety Tips



All animals react differently to the cold, even if they are considered to be "cold-weather" animals. Age, health, regular exposure to the cold and more can affect how your animal may experience health consequences in colder temperatures. Consult your veterinarian for more information on how to care for your own pet's health this winter. At 45°F, young, elderly and/or sick animals can begin to suffer health consequences.

Provide Shelter



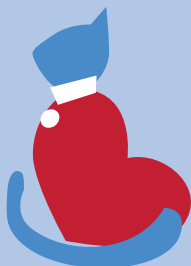
At **32°F** or less, no owned dog or cat should be left outdoors unless they have access to a well-insulated structure that

- Is large enough to curl up in and has a **wind block** at the door
- Includes a **heated water bowl** so they have access to an unfrozen water
- Has a floor, is **elevated from the ground**, has warm dry blankets or dry straw and has heating or an outdoor heating pad



Feral Cats

Feral cats have likely found warm places to hide, but if you are worried about a local feral cat, you could consider putting out a **weather-safe container** with bedding and a hole for entry. You also want to provide water, but you need to be vigilant to make sure it does not freeze.



Warning Signs

Signs that an animal may be getting too cold include:

- Trembling
- Sleepiness
- Slowed breathing
- Mobility issues
- Dry skin
- * Numbness
- * Illness

(these last two are the most serious)



Walking Your Dog

• Consider **shortening the walk** if the temperature is too frigid. Help them get more exercise inside your home.



• Check with your vet whether your pet may want **additional clothing** beyond their "fur coat" in this chilly weather.

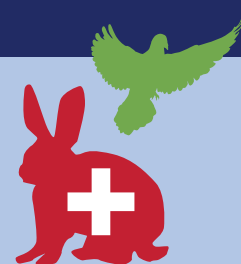


• Watch for any **signs of injury** or extreme cold to their paws, especially in the snow or ice. Wipe off paw pads on your way inside to prevent chemical melting agents from injuring paws or being ingested.



Pet Care Kit

Be prepared for loss of heat and/or power outages to your home. **Prepare a pet care kit** so you have what you need for your pet if you need to leave in a hurry. Learn more at AlexandriaAnimals.org/CareKit.



Make Some Noise

Don't forget about our wild neighbors who may use your vehicle as a wind block in these chilly temperatures. **Make plenty of noise** and give them time to make their exit before driving away!



4101 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
703-746-4774
AlexandriaAnimals.org