

ASPCA Offers Winter Weather Tips for Pets

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shares ways to keep cats and dogs warm and safe.

Posted: January 19, 2007, 5 a.m. EST

Keep your cat warm and safe during winter weather. (Stock photo)With temperatures dropping across the country, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reminds pet owners to look for ways to keep their cats and dogs warm during cold spells. Follow these winter weather tips for pets to keep your cat safe during chilly times.

Keep animals inside during cold spells and inclement weather.

If part of your daily routine with your cat includes a walk on a leash, keep your pet warm with a sweater or jacket made just for them, or cut the time you usually spend outside.

Make sure your pet has access to plenty of fresh drinking water.

"Winter air can be very dry, leaving pets dehydrated," said Louise Murray, DVM, director of medicine for ASPCA's Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital.

Check your car's engine before starting it.

During winter, some outdoor cats seek warmth under the hoods of cars. Your pet may be tucked safely indoors, but a local stray may seek shelter under your car. Bang your fist on the hood or honk the horn before starting the engine to startle away any cats.

For more winter weather tips, visit the ASPCA's website.