

- Check out the wide variety of sweaters, rain gear, ponchos, capes, fleece wraps, snowsuits and coats to keep your pup toasty and dressed to impress.
- Thermal dog beds, heating pads and bed warmers with sealed heating elements. Many use no more power than a 10- to 80-watt light bulb. Some can be used outdoors. But remember to use any thermal product with care, and follow all safety instructions to prevent burns and fires.
- Microwavable heating pads keep your pet's bed warm for hours with no electrical cords.
- Water bowls with heating elements keep your dog's water from freezing no matter how low the temperature.
- Pet doors allow your dog to come in from the cold. Insulated doghouses and other enclosures keep your dog out of the bad weather.
- Reflective harnesses and battery-operated flashing collars increase visibility and safety when you walk your dog at night.
- A new set of grooming tools & brushes, combs and mat removers — will keep your pet's coat healthy and warm.
- For the dog that stays inside more often in winter, stock up on a few extra chew toys and other playthings so your pet doesn't turn to the furniture or your best shoes out of boredom.
- Don't forget booties to keep those tender paw pads protected.

To protect your dog:

- Clean up antifreeze spills and leaks immediately.
- Supervise your dog around driveways and parked cars, and walk dogs on leashes.
- If you suspect your dog may have ingested antifreeze, take it to a veterinarian right away. Do not wait for symptoms to appear.
- Educate pet sitters about the danger, and keep your veterinarian's phone number handy.
- Replace ethylene glycol-based antifreeze with propylene glycol-based antifreeze. Propylene glycol is less toxic and tastes bitter, making it less appealing.

### **Signs of Frostbite & Hypothermia**

Dogs' body temperature averages 101.5 degrees, but Dr. Minott Pruyn, DVM, of Pruyn Veterinary Hospital in Missoula, Mont., said it is not uncommon to see dogs with a core temperature as low as 94 degrees. "Anything below 100 degrees can be considered serious hypothermia," said Dr. Pruyn, who also sees a lot of frostbite. Dogs with erect ears and tails are especially vulnerable.

Here are five signs that your dog may be in distress:

The first sign of hypothermia is shivering. "When your pet is shivering, its body is still trying to keep itself warm," Dr. Pruyn said. "That's the time to warm the dog fast by immersing it in warm water or warm towels and heating pads. If your dog has advanced past shivering, its body has begun to shut off circulation to the appendages, and the hypothermia is more serious."

Suspect frostbite if your dog comes inside and its ears, tail or other appendages are red or discolored and swollen. "Initially, badly frostbitten areas will appear purple, blue or black," Dr. Pruyn said. "As they thaw, they re-vascularize [fill with blood], swell and become a deeper purple, pink or red."

If your dog's tongue and gums are normally pink and you notice its mouth is discolored, it might be suffering from hypothermia. "If the membranes look blue and muddy or the tongue is blue, that's a sign of bad circulation," Dr. Pruyn said.

Depression and malaise, a lack of energy and sleepiness are all signs of advanced hypothermia.

At the onset of hypothermia, the heart rate becomes rapid. But as hypothermia progresses and circulation begins to fail, the heart rate slows to below normal.

If you suspect frostbite or hypothermia, immediately wrap your pet in blankets, Dr. Pruyn said. "But don't warm it too rapidly if hypothermia is advanced. Skip the warm baths and wrap your pet in warm towels, provide warm fluids, and take your pet to the vet immediately." Do not rub frostbitten tissue because friction can cause further injury. Instead, pack frostbitten areas with warm compresses.