

# Caring For Your Dog In Snow And Freezing Temperatures

## Keep your dog warm and safe in cold temperatures

Keeping your dog warm and dry is the best way to make sure they're happy when it's biting cold or snowing. Just like us, dogs can suffer hypothermia and frostbite, so helping their body temperature stay at a comfortable level is key.

### Invest in a warm dog coat

If your dog feels cold easily (for example, if they're very young, getting older or they have an underlying illness) you may want to invest in a warm dog-coat. Not only does it keep them well insulated, but it also helps keep them dry. Ideally, your dog's coat should be warm and waterproof and shouldn't slip around the body, or affect your dog's ability to walk, run, or go to the toilet.

You'll also want it to be machine-washable to keep it clean and free of bacteria. If it's reflective so they can be easily be seen at night that's a real benefit.

### Take a dry towel with you on walks

It's a good idea to take a dry towel with you on walks to dry off your dog should they get wet. When you come home, wash off any dirt or snow, dry them with a towel and then let them finish drying off in a nice warm environment.



## Check the weather before going out for a walk

Remember, long walks in cold, snowy conditions may also not be the best option for your dog. If it's too cold for you, chances are it's too cold for your dog. A short walk for them to do the necessary is perfectly okay.

## Protect your dog's paws

Icy or snowy weather can wreak havoc on your dog's delicate paws.

Rock salt is often used in combination with sand or gravel to grit icy roads and pavements, but it can damage paw pads. In fact, prolonged contact can lead to chemical burns, dryness, and painful cracking. Not only that, but rock salt is also toxic to pets if swallowed, so always wash paws as soon as you get home to prevent them from licking it off themselves.



If your dog's paws are looking chapped and sore, applying a small amount of dog-friendly paw balm can help alleviate the pain, promote healing and protect against grit.

Long-haired breeds often have excess fur around their paws which can become clogged with hard ice balls, causing pain and discomfort for your dog. Remember to [regularly clip around the paws](#) to keep it in line with the sole of their foot.

Dog boots provide protection against the elements, as well as extra grip on slippery surfaces. If your dog has particularly sensitive feet, opting for insulated, lightweight, and adjustable boots can keep them happy on cold, snowy walks.

## Dogs in ice and snow