

COUNTY OF KANE

Public Information Office



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Kane County Animal Control Provides Pet Safety Tips for Freezing Winter Temperatures

Anticipating dangerously low temperatures in the coming days with snowstorms paving the way for subzero conditions, Kane County Animal Control offers advice for residents to safeguard their pets during this extreme cold spell.

1. **Bring Pets Indoors:** Ensure all dogs and cats, regardless of outdoor acclimatization, are brought indoors during sub-zero weather. Responsible pet owners should provide a heated shelter for their animals to rest from the bitter cold with available water.
2. **Prevent Frostbite:** Limit outdoor time for dogs and cats during sub-zero temperatures. Walks should not exceed 10 minutes, and check their pads upon returning home. If frostbite is suspected, especially on exposed areas, contact your veterinarian.
3. **Protect Their Paws:** Both salt and ice can irritate your dog's footpads. Use foot coverings if your dog tolerates them, or avoid salt when possible. After walks, wash your dog's paws with warm water.
4. **Keep Them Leashed:** Due to snowfall disguising scents, keep dogs leashed during walks to prevent them from getting lost. Ensure collars have updated contact information and pets are microchipped.
5. **Be Visible:** Walk your dog safely in the dark by wearing reflective gear. Keep dogs close when walking on the street.
6. **Secure Poisonous Materials:** Properly secure potentially toxic materials like antifreeze, as it is hazardous to animals. Keep antifreeze bottles out of reach and clean spills immediately.
7. **Prepare for Emergencies:** Develop an emergency plan that includes your pets. Maintain an emergency kit with enough food, water, and medication to last your pets at least five days in case you are homebound or there's a lasting power outage.

Residents are encouraged to be vigilant about pets left outside for extended periods and to alert local police or Kane County Animal Control if an animal appears to be in potential danger. Learn more about the services and resources offered by Kane County Animal Control at www.kanecountypets.com.