

WINTER CAN BE HAZARDOUS FOR DOGS

Written by Shaid

Thursday, 21 February 2013 02:21 -

Winter is now fully upon us and can be hazardous for dogs whether indoors or out.

In winter, both people and pets tend to spend more time inside. There are many types of houseplants that can be poisonous to dogs. Whether they can cause serious health problems or just make doggie vomit or give him diarrhea, you need to be aware and keep them out of reach.

We often burn more candles, have fireplaces, wood-burning stoves and use space heaters all of which can allow for the potential of burns or smoke inhalation. A dog should never be left in a room with an open flame or hot elements as he can easily knock over a candle or heater and start a house fire (or light his own fur on fire).

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a threat to pets and people. A pet left at home for long hours could easily become a victim. A monitored detector can ensure you get a call from a monitoring station even when you are not home to hear it beeping. This goes for smoke detectors also.

Many dogs enjoy being outside in the winter and have lots of fun romping in the snow, but it is important to keep in mind that dogs are susceptible to frostbite, hypothermia (low body temperature), and other cold-weather hazards. If your dog lives outside in the winter, you need to take care to protect him from the wind, rain, and cold. Hypothermia can affect normal body functioning and produce injury or death. A dog outdoors still needs fresh water that is protected from freezing. If your dog has a dog house, make sure the interior is insulated. You can purchase heated mats certified for this purpose and provide a deep layer of straw to help keep him warm and comfortable.

Dogs that live outside should be able to come inside if they want to. Elderly or ailing dogs should be kept indoors. Even a dog that is used to being outside can suffer hypothermia and frostbite. Whenever there are winter storm warnings or cold weather alerts that recommend humans stay inside, bring your pets in as well. If you cannot bring your pets into the house, a garage or mud room may provide enough heat and shelter. Remember also to stock up on any medications and food your pets need in case storms delay you from getting re-fills.

Ice melters or rock salt, antifreeze and windshield wiper fluids can all be toxic and cause serious illness if pets ingest them. These can stick to the bottom of dogs' paws as well and so rinsing their feet off when you get home is recommended to avoid damage to the paw pads and to your floors. Methanol and ethylene glycol which are contained in wiper fluids and antifreeze can cause permanent kidney damage and even death. Carbon monoxide poisoning can also happen when dogs are left in cars with the engine running or in a garage with a running car.

Going for walks in the winter can be fun and is great exercise, but it is best to keep dogs well away from frozen water. Dogs can easily run out on snowy, partially frozen bodies of water and fall through thin ice and may suffer hypothermia or drown.

We all want our pets to enjoy the winter with us and, by taking a few preventive measures, dogs can be protected from many common winter hazards.

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Non-clumping litter,

canned cat food

, bleach and garbage bags are still needed – help us if you can.

Also

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Visit our website at

www.shaid.ca

and on Facebook as SHAID Tree Animal Shelter.