

Winter Time Again

The winter months bring about a variety of concerns for your dog. Here are some tips to make it through until spring.

- With the colder temperatures, dogs tend to drink less water, so make sure to watch your dogs' water intake. If you notice your dog drinking less water, you can add lukewarm water to your dog's drinking bowl to entice more water drinking.
- Make sure that your dog has received all the required vaccinations. Sudden changes in temperature can make dog susceptible to viral infections.
- If you use a space heater during the winter months, please make sure to keep it away from your pup. Dogs can easily get burned by lying too close or knock over the heater causing a fire.
- With shorter days and frequent rain it's difficult to adequately exercise your dog. However, exercise is still important in your dog's daily routine. If you are not able to get out with your dog, you can try some activities at home. Bubbles and Laser Pointer fun are great ways to stimulate your dog without leaving the house. While you are away at work, stuffed kongs, goodie ships and buster cubes make great activities for your pup.
- If you take your dog out for a walk in the early morning or late evening, make sure to buy him a coat! Not only will a coat keep your dog warm, it will also keep the dew soaked grass from wetting your pet's undercoat. Short-haired and smaller dogs are more at risk when the mercury drops.
- If you walk your dog in the dark, there are lots of tools that can help you and your dog be seen. Reflective dog collars or small lights that attach to your dogs' collar make it easy for dogs to be seen at night. Some retractable leashes have a flashlight built in which makes walking easier. These supplies can be found at most local pet stores.

The winter months can be challenging with your dog, but a little planning can help make the wait for spring that much more bearable.