

Winter Dangers

Winter can be lots of fun, but also can be very dangerous for your bulldog.



- Antifreeze, which often collects on driveways and roadways, is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your bulldog, it can be lethal.
- Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your bulldog's feet after a walk.
- Frostbite is your bulldog's winter hazard. To prevent frostbite on his/her ears, tail and feet, don't leave your bulldog outdoors for too long.
- Be very careful of supplemental heat sources. Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn your bulldog. Make sure all fireplaces have screens, and keep portable heaters out of reach.
- Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Take your dog to a veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms. Don't use over-the-counter medications on your dog without consulting a veterinarian.
- Holly, mistletoe and poinsettia plants are pet poisons! Make sure they are kept in places your dog cannot reach
- Icy walkways can cause serious injuries to Bulldogs hips and knees. Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog outside.
- Snow can muffle scents, and your dog can easily get lost.
- Don't leave your bulldog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill lowers actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature, and limit time outdoors.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your bulldog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- Be extra careful when walking or playing with your bulldog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or fall through and get seriously injured. Remember most bulldogs do not swim.



- Groom your dog regularly. Your bulldog needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. His/her short coarse-haired coat may get extra cold, so consider a sweater or coat.
- It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary for any bully who spends a lot of time outdoors.
- Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean the paws, too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car. If the car engine is left on, the carbon monoxide will endanger your dog's life. If the engine is off, the temperature in the car will get too cold.
- Provide plenty of fresh water. Surprisingly, your bulldog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer!

Instructions on how to Care for your Dog's Paws:

Wash the paws with slightly warm water after going for a walk. You want to wash off harmful irritants like salt and prevent your dog from ingesting any of the chemical de-icers by licking their feet. This also eliminates any ice or snow that has built up between your dog's toes that could make walking painful.

Inspect your dog's paws after every walk, particularly when you've walked in areas treated with salts or other sidewalk treatments. Be sure to check between the toes and look at the pad for any cracks or sore spots.

Cut your dog's nails and trim the hair on his feet regularly. Hair that is too long attracts snow and slush which can cause problems. Keep from cutting the fur too short, however, as it offers protection for your dog's feet.

Apply some oil to your dog's paws to help sooth irritated feet. Be careful not to apply too much or too often as pads that are too soft can also lead to irritation. You can also apply just before going outside as it can help protect your dog's feet but take it off when you get back inside. Pet stores also sell special wax or other products that work the same way.

Purchase dog boots for your pet if you live in an area that gets a lot of snow and cold or if your dog is susceptible to problem paws. The boots fit over your dog's paws and offer warmth and comfort. You may want to look for some that have added traction on the bottom so that you're dog has an easier time walking on the snow and ice.

Treat any cuts, sores or infections that develop according to your vet's instructions. If you notice that your dog seems to have painful feet even without sores, take a day or two off from walking in the snow.