



Sue's Views for Happy Pets December 2011/January 2012

Winter and Holiday Safety and Comfort

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Voted BEST DOG WALKERS in Philadelphia FIVE YEARS IN A ROW on PHL17 TV's Hot List!
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

BEST OF PHILLY 2010, Philly Mag's Best of Philly Issue

<http://www.snifflesandfriends.com>

Slushy sidewalks, snowy days, and lots of winter activities!
Winter brings a lot of fun for our pets as well as for us!
It also brings some different issues that require our attention to keep them healthy, safe, and warm during these winter months.

Most dogs are naturally able to tolerate a significant degree of cold temperatures. This is especially true of long-haired breeds
So, does your dog need to wear a coat? It depends on the individual, just as it does for humans!

Smaller dogs tend to be more likely than larger breed dogs to require extra warmth. Their little bodies just can't hold heat as well as those of their bigger counterparts. Also, dogs that have shorter, thinner fur are more likely than those with longer, thicker coats to require some extra warmth. For example, if a min-pin lives in Florida, he might require a sweater if the weather goes below 50 degrees; while a husky who lives in Minnesota may never need a coat ever.

Also, remember that dogs warm up with activity just like we do. A dog who is taking a vigorous walk around the neighborhood may not need to wear a coat, but a dog that is being carried might.

Of course, there's nothing better than good old-fashioned common sense. If your dog is acting like he doesn't want to go outside or if he is indicating that the cold is making him uncomfortable (shivering, seeking a warm spot in the house to hang out), you should definitely consider bundling him up as he goes outdoors to face the elements!

Don't forget to use pet-friendly salt products on your sidewalks!
There are products that are specifically formulated to not irritate dogs' feet and these products are sold at most pet stores.
If your dog is out for a walk, be sure to wipe his feet off when you get inside to make sure you're removing any non-pet-friendly products that might irritate his feet. There are also boots that are available to keep your dogs' tootsies dry and comfy during and after cold weather walks!

For yourself, when dog walking be sure to use gloves that have textured surfaces on the palms.
Knit mittens don't offer any traction for gripping leashes, making it easy for an excited pup to get away from you before you know it!
Driving gloves are my favorite for winter safety and to keep a firm grip on the leash!

Be sure to keep yourself warm too, so you and your furry friends can enjoy this year's winter wonderland in style and in warm, toasty comfort.

Sniffles and Friends wishes all our two- and four-legged friends a fabulous Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, and a healthy, safe, and prosperous 2012!