

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAPPS Provides Cold Weather Safety Tips for Pet Parents

Frigid Weather Puts Pets at Risk

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. – As temperatures continue to drop, the need to protect household pets from the dangers of the brutally cold winter becomes essential. The season is often accompanied with many challenges for pet parents to keep their pets warm and dry, while maintaining proper exercise and play routines. To assist pet parents in confronting the treacherous weather, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is providing strategies to keep pets warm and safe.

“Pets are just as susceptible to health risks from inclement weather as humans,” explains John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS). “In order to ensure your pet’s safety during the winter season, precautionary measures should be taken to keep them safe.”

Without thorough preparation, pets can suffer from hypothermia, a condition in which the body temperature becomes too low for normal function. Animals with hypothermia often experience violent shivering and difficulty breathing. As a result, preparatory steps should be taken to prevent this from occurring.

- Keep your pets inside whenever possible.
- To reduce the amount of snow that collects between toes, clip the fur between toe pads.
- Do not let dogs off the leash in snow or ice as they often lose their scent in cold weather and can become lost.
- Leave the coat longer for more warmth.
- If your pet engages in a lot of outdoor activities, check with your veterinarian, but consider increasing its food supply to help keep the coat thick and healthy.
- Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold.
- Have an emergency supply kit for your pet, including a pet identification form with photos, microchip number, shot records, food, water, veterinarian and emergency contact information and first aid supplies.
- Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, away from drafts and off the floor.

Winter products, such as antifreeze and ice-melting products, can also be dangerous to pets. Ice-melting products that use heat from roads, tires and other areas can burn or irritate pet paws and can be toxic if the dog ingests it. In order to prevent this, it is important to rinse the pet’s paws with warm water before wiping them dry. Antifreeze can also be poisonous to pets and should be stored tightly and kept out of the pet’s reach.

If a spill occurs, sprinkle the area with absorbent material, such as sand or cat litter, to prevent your pet from licking it. With all winter products, pet parents should read the labels and store them in tight containers.

NAPPS provides a comprehensive guide to disaster preparation for pet parents at its website: www.petsitters.org/cfincludes/MemberCenter/pdfs/DPPetOwner.pdf

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national nonprofit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as "the most respected authority in professional pet sitting." It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide "Pet Sitter Locator" at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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Media Contact:

Linda Woody

856-642-4420

lwoody@ahint.com