

Being Aware During the Winter

Winter is a time of stillness and rest. Winter is also a time when temperatures plummet and weather becomes unstable. During this time, it is an important part of our humanity that we look out for animals who may be in desperate need of assistance.

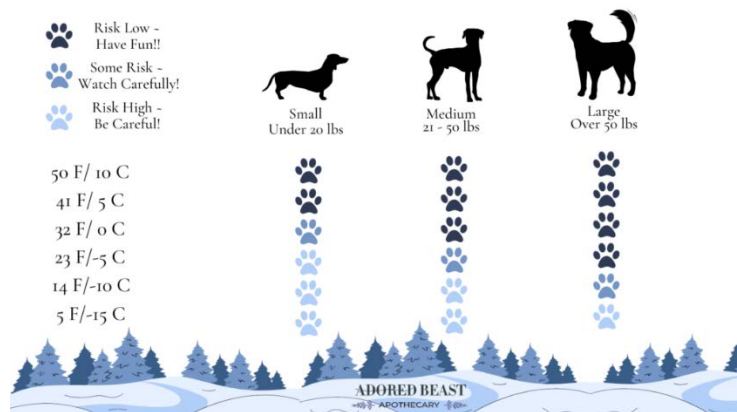


When temperatures drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, outside can become a particularly hazardous place for primarily indoor companion animals. “Potty breaks” should be kept to a ten-minute maximum. Certain breeds, such as Chihuahuas, Papillons and Xolos, are more susceptible to cold weather due to their size and/or lack of hair. Other breeds, such as Huskies and Malamutes, are incredibly weather hardy and can handle cooler temperatures well but should still be monitored.

Any animal that is left outside and without shelter for an extended period is at risk of hypothermia. New Jersey has Animal Cruelty Laws that protect animals from poor human behavior. If you see an animal in need, contact your local Animal Control immediately. You also have the option to speak with your township’s Humane Law Enforcement Officer by contacting the non-emergency police number for your town.

Animal Cruelty is not limited to lack of shelter in freezing temperatures, nor is it limited to companion animals. Pigs, goats, chickens and other farm animals should also have indoor access at all times. Being vigilant and staying alert will help prevent further cases of animal cruelty and neglect!

How Cold is Too Cold?



Dana Speesler, Bernards Township Animal Control