



FetchFind® WINTER SAFETY GUIDE



1 Learn the early signs of hypothermia

- Shivering (mild to severe)
- Weakness & lethargy
- Lack of alertness
- Muscle stiffness
- Low blood pressure
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Reluctance or refusal to go on



2 Cut it short when it's freezing

- Generally ~45°F (7°C) or below, start to take precautions
- The colder it is, the shorter your time spent outside
- Spend the rest of the visit inside playing, cuddling, training or warming up



3 Beware of ice & slippery surfaces

- Avoid ice whenever possible
- Go slow & take your time
- Wear footwear with traction
- Support older dogs & those with weaker hips using a sling, scarf, towel, etc.
- Dogs that pull on ice can slip & be easily hurt



4 Dogs that are more at risk for hypothermia

- Young puppies
- Senior dogs
- Small dogs
- Dogs with short and/or thin coats



They may need shorter outings & more protection from the cold

5 Protect & care for paws

*Cold can cause dryness & cracking
Salt can burn paw pads
Hazards may be hidden under snow*

- Use dog boots to protect
- Apply protective balm to avoid burns & heal paws
- Use pet-safe salt or ice melt



6 Utilize winter gear

To keep dogs warm & protected from the elements

- Coats & jackets
- Boots (they can be regular boots or rubber)
- Snoods & ear protection



7 Never leave dogs in a car or outside

If you must keep it extremely short & leave the heat on if you can



8 Avoid snowdrifts, deep snow & frozen water

Dogs can get stuck in deep snow, snow can hide hazards like broken glass, & frozen ponds/lakes are dangerous



9 Know normal temperature

Most dogs average between

• **101 - 102.5°F** •
(38.3 - 39.2°C)

Hypothermia can be mild, moderate or severe, depending on how low the body temperature drops below normal



10 Make sure pets can stay sufficiently warm

- Make sure heaters work safely
- Provide blankets, warm bedding & access to warm spaces



11 Beware of toxins

Many substances used in winter can attract dogs and/or be easily ingested

- Anti-freeze → has a sweet taste
- Ice melt & salt → licked off paws
- Pest poisons → from increased activity



12 Special care for seniors

Winter can aggravate conditions like arthritis, stiffness & soreness

- Keep them warm!
- Give extra support
- Go slow & be patient

