

Winter Safety Tips

So far, this winter season has been highlighted by temperature fluctuations, causing large piles of snow, and carefully constructed snowmen, to melt away quickly by rising temperatures and subsequent rain. Some young puppies are discovering grass and mud for the first time, while others insist on licking what dirty snow remains. All the mud, sticks, remaining leaves and yucky snow contain mold and bacteria that can cause intestinal problems for a puppy. Puppies have a very keen sense of smell and will attempt to eat everything in sight. Keep an extra eye on your puppy when you go outside. If you have a question about something your puppy may have ingested, contact your Region Coordinator immediately.

Between the snowy and raining periods, ice often forms on sidewalks and stairs. Puppies slip and slide just like humans, however humans need to keep track of only two feet while our companions have four paws to keep under them! Keeping your puppy off the ice is the best solution to preventing injuries. Finally, watch out for those paw pads! Salt can harm a puppy's pad. Check the sidewalk for salt before taking your puppy for a walk. If you find yourself and your puppy walking on salt, be sure to wash the paw pads as soon as possible in warm water and dry them thoroughly to prevent a rash.