



# Preparing For Winter With Your Pet



Brrrrr... it's getting chilly outside! Winter is almost upon us, and our furry friends can't layer up like we do with bobble hats, coats and scarves! So, what do we need to do to prepare for winter with our pets?

We're sure you have lots of ideas, and we've popped some below too! When we plan all this out together, we can be sure we're doing everything we can to keep our pets safe, happy and cozy this winter.

## Dogs

- Going out on winter walkies? Of course you are! If your dog is older, a young pup or has thin fur, think about keeping them cozy with a coat.
- Be safe, be seen! When you're out on those winter walks during darker nights, make sure your dog is wearing a reflective collar/lead and has a flashing light on their collar so they can easily be seen by others. Make sure you can be seen too!
- Is it icy out? If so, it's likely that salt will have been put down on the roads and pavements to stop us from slipping! But rock salt can be harmful to pets, so make sure you rinse their paws off when you get home.
- Snow is SO much fun! For dogs with hairy paws however, clumps of snow or ice balls can form in between their pads when out walking. Check their paws and maybe ask your parents to keep their hairy toes trimmed!
- Never, ever, let your dog run or walk on a frozen pond or lake - the ice could break.



# Cats



- Your feline friend may prefer to stay indoors in nasty weather - so make sure they have somewhere cozy to curl up and a litter tray. That way, if they really don't want to go outside, they don't have to!
- If your cat really does prefer their home comforts when it's cold outside, they probably aren't getting as much exercise. Why not treat them to some new toys and enjoy some playtime together?
- Antifreeze, which is used to de-ice cars, is poisonous. Let your parents know so they can clean it up straight away if it's spilled.
- If your cat does enjoy a spot of time outdoors, even in cold weather, make sure they can get back inside or have somewhere to shelter, should the weather take a turn for the worse!

# Rabbits & Guinea Pigs

- Bring hutches inside where possible - even somewhere like a shed or car-free garage will help to keep them warmer.
- If they do need to stay outside, wrap up their water bottle in bubble wrap to stop their water freezing, cover their hutches with a thick blanket (leave a gap so that air can flow through) and pop an animal-safe heat pad under their bedding for some extra warmth.
- Provide plenty of extra bedding for them to snuggle down into when the temperature drops.



## TASK!

Do something special for your pet to keep them extra safe and warm this winter!