

From: lissa [lissa@lissa.net]
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To: 'ExtMAGDRL Yahoo Group'
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #4: Cold Weather Care for your Dane

Hi All,

YIKES!!! I took Metrorail to work this morning and was shocked to realize that winter has arrived in full force! Our furkids feel it as much as we do, so now's the time to think about protecting them.

In winter, our Danes can be just as cold and miserable as their humans, so this week's Dog Owner Education topic is about caring for our canine friends in cold weather. Here are some tips on keeping your pet healthy and happy during the cold weather.

1. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Dogs frequently lose their scent in snow and ice and can easily become lost. They may panic in a snowstorm and run away. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season.
2. Dogs and cats lose a lot of their body heat from the pads on their feet and through their ears. Pet sweaters help some...but not a whole lot. Bootees are better at keeping your Dane warm.
3. If your dog is sensitive to the cold because of age, illness, or breed type, take him outdoors only long enough to relieve himself. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature and limit time outdoors. Companion animals are easily susceptible to frostbite.
4. Thoroughly wipe off and towel dry your pet's legs and stomach when it comes in out of the rain, snow, or ice. Check their sensitive paw pads and between the toes for snow or ice encrusted in them.
5. Never leave your pet alone in a car during cold weather. The metal car can act as a refrigerator in the winter and hold in the cold. Your pet could quickly freeze to death. If the car is left running, your pet could die from breathing in carbon monoxide. Also, pets are often stolen from unattended vehicles.
6. Make sure your Dane has a warm place to sleep far away from all drafts and off the floor, such as in a dog bed or a basket with a warm blanket or pillow in it. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors if your dog rests in these areas.
7. Be careful of supplemental heat sources. Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn your dog or cat. Make sure all fireplaces have screens, and keep portable heaters out of reach.
8. Like people, animals seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Call your veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms. Don't use over-the-counter medications on your pet without consulting your vet.
9. Limit the time a pet is outdoors. Shivering is a sign your pet is too cold and indicates the start of hypothermia. A shivering pet should be slowly warmed until signs of hypothermia are gone.

10. Keep your steps and sidewalks clear of snow and ice to prevent your Dane from slipping. Kitty litter and special pet-safe deicers are better for your Dane to walk on than rock salt. Also, salt, antifreeze, or other chemicals can hurt your Dane if ingested while licking its paws. Wash your Dane's feet if you think they've walked through such chemicals.

Thanks for educating yourselves to benefit all dog owners!

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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

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