

Fury friends and cold weather

Now that the cold weather is here in most of the country, many of you travelers will find yourself with assignments in the cold weather. Perhaps, for the first time, you will even venture out to an area that has lots of snow. If you are like many travelers nowadays, you may travel with a dog to keep you company. You may have a good idea of how to deal with the cold weather, but is there anything you need to know about dogs when it comes to cold weather? After all, aren't dogs warmer than humans and can therefore be left outside without getting too cold, especially with that natural fur coat?

According to, www.canismajor.com/dog/windter2.html, an online magazine for pet owners, dogs do have a body temperature a couple of degrees higher than we do, but that doesn't prevent them from getting cold outside. They suggest a small insulated dog house to trap the heat in for those dogs staying outside.

The first sign that a dog is experiencing hypothermia is shivering. A warm water bath can warm them back up. They can get frostbite too, especially if they are a puppy or old. Most pet stores carry coats that dogs can wear to stay warm.

Also, when a dog walks in the snow, they may get balls of ice between their toes. The best way to prevent this is to cut the hair short between and under the toes. Also, the salt used to de-ice the roads can cause their paws to crack. If your dog has dry cracked paws, you can wash their paws off with warm water and dry them at the end of each walk to remove all the salt.

Finally, your dog may become very hungry in the winter time. However, do not let them eat any antifreeze. Apparently, antifreeze has a very good sweet taste and dogs love it. They will lick it off the sidewalk in a minute. Antifreeze is very toxic to a dog's nervous system. Symptoms can be noticed within an hour.

If you are heading out to the cold with your friend Fido, remember that he will have special needs too. You can keep each other warm and eat the snow. It could be lots of fun.