

What to watch out for in your environment...for you AND you pet!

The health of your much beloved pets is not a place to cut your family budget. High quality foods nowadays will save you far more expense in the long run. Without a doubt, this reality hits home like a Mack truck when it comes to our pets and their nutritional care. Please do not underestimate the necessity for excellence in nourishment for your dog. You can bring upon yourself extravagant expenses for high medical expenses later if you do. Owners incur drastically high veterinary bills from medications, recheck visits, veterinary hospital stays which all include the familiar, detailed expenses for supplies and materials, you might see on a bill for your own health care these days! Cutting your costs by feeding cheaper foods, sets up feeding habits leading to a shortened life for your precious pets, and your pets health is enormously determined by his nutrition from puppy hood on. Do your homework, your research. Don't you think it is **worth** it?

ANTI-FREEZE! WINDSHIELD DE-ICER! In winter or summer, your pet will die from lapping up less than a teaspoon of this stuff!! You must continually check and rid your driveways, garage floors, curbsides, and anywhere else in your environment, where even the teensiest amount of this product could be. These products smell sweet, taste good to your pets, and sadly will kill them. They can lap it up before you have a clue, so watch for signs of your pet appearing DRUNK, lacking coordinated movements. Look out for vomiting, depression, and increased water drinking and frequent or longer/shorter episodes of urination. **Call your vet immediately** if you suspect anti-freeze poisoning; these chemicals kill in a matter of 4 - 8 hours or less! Kidney damage which is irreversible may occur. Veterinary intervention if you even suspect it is an absolute must!

Really cold or frost bitten paws happen quickly. Watch for signs of your dog holding up his paws, drawing a leg up, perhaps alternating holding up one paw and then another. He may be willing to stay outdoors not heeding the numbing or stinging pain, because the outdoors is so adored by many dogs, especially sporting breeds, even in winter's snow and ice. Get your friend inside and dry his feet if you see these signs. Some dogs get ice balls between the toes, so look them over too!

When the snow starts piling up around your yard, be sure to shovel paths and toileting areas for your dog. Dogs that would otherwise hop up and down to negotiate the piling up of snow, can land and slip causing joint injury. Sounds **far fetched**...but this is repeatedly seen in the waiting rooms of veterinary practices! Even athletic dogs sustain injury to knees, hips, shoulders, hocks, feet, and even elbows from the hopping and leaping to move along to a spot they chose to relieve themselves. Bear this in mind when it comes to his exercise and playing in the yard too! Give him pathways and fun mazes to travel that are flat and safe for him. My husband gets out the snow blower and makes trails back and forth for our pack, and they love him for it!

Bathing your dog in colder months has to be done very carefully. Completely dry him with a thirsty, thick, terry towel. Be sure to give him a good going over behind the ears, armpits and folds, under his neck and tail, and do not forget to dry those hind legs and his

tummy! Then do it again! Be sure he is completely dry before returning him to the outdoors for even brief trips to the garden. Some dogs do not mind a quiet blow dryer held at a carefully at a distance for a nice warm going over. Some can not stand it, so don't busy yourself forcing warm balmy air on that one!

If your dog has recently been spayed, or had any type operation or procedure requiring him to be shaved on any part of his body, be sure to cover the exposed area prior to going out. Sweaters or capes may seem really silly on a sporting breed, but there may be such times when they are warranted.

BEWARE!!!! YOUR HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS DON'T JUST CLEAN!!!

Try these natural alternatives...they are easy and safe!

Try making your own cleaners using natural and **SAFE** products! It is **EASY** to do! Fashion your own natural and safe cleaners by filling a plastic spray bottle with water and a squirt of dishwashing soap. Add 3 to 5 drops each of any combination you wish of lavender, eucalyptus, mint, lemon, pine, or orange essential oils! Give your spray bottle a really good shaking, and you are on your way towards a homespun cleaner ready to spray. The recipe I am about to give you is an easy solution, and you will see it is extremely easy on the pocket, and it will clean and disinfect as well as any commercial version. cinnamon, clove, Eucalyptus globulus, thyme, juniper, Melaleuca alternifolia (tea tree), spruce, lemongrass and grapefruit also offer amazing antibacterial and antiviral cleaning alternatives, in combination or singularly. **Some oils if used directly may stain surfaces such as linoleum so use your LEMON AND ORANGE (ANY CITRUS) juices with a squirt of soap and a dash of tap water for these!**