

PET CONNECTION SEASONAL CONCERNS FOR YOUR PET

Cooler months are upon us. Leaves will change colors and fall and snow will come. Unlike summer when you are concerned about overheating, now we need to be concerned about frost bite on the paws, hypothermia and other concerns.

HYPOTHERMIA AND FROST BITE

Hypothermia and frost bite can occur in minutes with below zero temperatures. The areas you will see most frequently on dogs and cats are around the ears, tail, scrotum and feet. If affected, these areas of skin may appear pale or red, scaly, and the skin or foot pads may eventually slough off. If you believe your pet may have frost bite do not rub these areas. Apply a warm moist towel until the area starts to look normal. Gently dry off the area, wrap your pet in a blanket to conserve body heat and go to your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately.

Once hypothermia starts to set in you will notice your pet may have signs of depression, lose consciousness, or have decreased responsiveness to commands. Wrap your pet in a blanket and go to your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately.

HUNTING SEASON

Hunting season is here. Make sure that all dogs are wearing their appropriate clothing, bright orange collars or jackets, since they can be easily mistaken for wild life. In addition bring along a first aid kit specifically for your pet. Things to include would be: gauze sponges, non-stick telfa pads, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, ace bandages, and antibiotic and anti-inflammatory creams.

ANTIFREEZE

It's that time of year to change or refill antifreeze in your vehicles. The active ingredient in antifreeze is ethylene glycol and is very toxic to your pets. It is a sweet tasting substance that left accessible can be fatal to your pet(s). Ethylene glycol when ingested causes changes to the brain and once broken down in the body can be toxic to the kidneys and possibly lead to kidney failure. Within 1 - 10 hours of ingestion signs are disorientation, drunken behavior, seizures, loss of consciousness, vomiting, excessive urination, no urination, and eventually death. If you are concerned your pet may have ingested antifreeze, take them to your veterinarian or emergency clinic **immediately**. Two ounces of ethylene glycol can be lethal to a dog and 1 teaspoon can be lethal to a cat. If possible call ahead so they can anticipate your arrival and bring along the original container the antifreeze was in. A blood test can be done to confirm if ethylene glycol has been ingested within the first 1 - 10 hours. Antifreeze cannot be detected in the bloodstream after 12 hours of ingestion. Remember, prevention is the key. Keep your companion away from possible sources of ant-freeze poisoning.

Mothballs: For those who store winter and summer clothes use caution when using mothballs. These are toxic to both dogs and especially cats. Not only can pets be harmed by eating mothballs but also by inhalation of vapors when locked in an area where there is a high concentration of it. Vomiting and labored breathing are the signs your pet will show if it has ingested or inhaled mothballs. Take your pet to your veterinarian or emergency clinic to start treatment.

We are here to help. For assistance with these or any concerns regarding your pet please call us at:
262-679-1200