

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Winter Weather Tips for Your Pets**

**(New York, December 20, 2010)** Recent news reports have covered a story of an animal being left out in the cold, a story that did not end well. Cold winter temperatures and being exposed to the elements can be harmful and even fatal to pets, especially if they are left outdoors for long periods of time. Animal Care & Control offers the following tips to ensure that your pet stays safe and warm during the cold weather months:

1. Keep your pets indoors. They can become hypothermic, meaning their body temperature can fall below normal levels, if left outside. They are much safer and happier indoors.
2. Invest in a pet sweater for shorthaired breed dogs. Watch for signs your pet is cold when on walks. Like us they shiver when cold.
3. Never leave pets alone in cars. When the engine is off, a car can act as a refrigerator, holding in the cold.
4. Keep your dog on a leash – especially during bad weather or snowstorms when they can lose their ability to find their way by smell.
5. Make sure all of your pets have a warm place to sleep - away from drafts.
6. Clean your dog's paws, legs and stomach to remove snow and snow removal chemicals after walks. The chemicals can be irritating to their pads, and hazardous if licked. .
7. Consult with your veterinarian in order to provide the proper type and amount of food for the season.
8. Keep your dogs away from antifreeze and clean up antifreeze spills immediately. Many dogs like the sweet smell and taste. Even small amounts can be deadly.
9. Regularly groom your pet to keep the coat supple and prepared for the cold.
10. Pets can get frostbite, too. Watch for red, gray or whitish areas on your dog's nose, ears and feet. Also, watch out for "ice balls," or balls of slushy snow that form between your dog's toes. Keeping fur between the toes clipped is a good way to prevent this.
11. Please make sure your dog is licensed and has a current ID tag

**Animal Care & Control of NYC**

Animal Care rescues over 43,000 animals each year. AC&C is a not-for-profit organization under contract with the City of New York to manage its animal control program. To obtain more information about adopting an animal, visit: <http://nycacc.org/adoption.htm>.