

Pets in Winter

As well as avoiding the potential festive chaos inside the house there are outdoor seasonal risks to be considered during the winter season in the UK. Long walks on those cold winter morning walks are all the more enjoyable with the family dog. But consideration needs to be given to the safety of your pets outside during winter.

Every winter there are numerous unnecessary incidents around the country that make the headlines, which unfortunately involve the loss of either an animal or at worst, human life. Accidents around frozen rivers, ponds or lakes usually occur due to unforeseen and unpredictable events involving pets. Dogs by their very nature are inquisitive and therefore great care must be taken when exercising your dogs near to these potential life-threatening dangers. Even during the deepest depths of winter, frozen lakes are still likely to be fragile and should be avoided at all costs. When in doubt keep your pet on a lead at all times.

In the unfortunate event of an accident, should an animal become trapped in broken ice, it is the natural instinct of every animal owner to want to assist. The greatest assistance can be given by calling the emergency services and avoiding risk to others. Be aware that hypothermia not only affects people but animals too. Our pets are provided with a full coat of hair, which you may think is ideal for the winter, however their coat is maintained in relation to their surroundings. Therefore living within a central heated house, the need to maintain a thick protective coat is reduced, so when outdoors your pet will feel the effects of cold in just the same way as ourselves. Therefore consider the length of time the cat is placed outside, making sure they have easy access back into the house or shelter if necessary