



## Winterizing Your Pet

By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

**T**he leaves are raked--well, mostly--and the gardens are bedded for the winter. The furnace has been inspected, and the car tires have good deep tread....but what about Rover? Winter presents challenges to our pets and planning for the changes in season helps keep them safe, comfortable, and happy!

Just like the car's deep tire treads are needed to negotiate snow and icy roads, Rover's feet need care too. Hair on the bottom of his feet needs to be trimmed as well as nails. That hair growing between the pads of the feet can collect balls of ice and retain ice melting chemicals. Bushy feet will also bring in lots of mud, snow, and melt water on your floors and carpets just as though Rover was wearing sponges on his feet!

The furnace has been inspected and a steady supply of fuel to keep the house cozy is assured. Rover's furnace runs on dog food and you may need to take a look at what is in it. Many pets become more overweight in the winter due to shorter times spent exercising outside. Take a look at the ingredients panel and opt away from starchy ingredients. Remember that no canine has any nutritional requirement for sugar, yet you may find it in your ingredients list! Instead opt for food that is based on quality meats and vegetables, leaving out the corn, wheat, and soy. We recommend and sell Best Breed Pet Foods made here in Ohio and it has never had a recall!

As you bed down the flower beds and gardens for the winter, so too does Rover's coat continue to need care and attention. The dry indoor air can aggravate ears and skin conditions. Even if you wish Rover's coat to grow out longer, consider this--conditioning shampoos, brushing, de-rangling as needed and maintenance of the ears, feet and nails keep your pet comfortable, healthy, and happy! When spring finally does return, Rover can resume his summer trim without coat damage or de-matting stress. Appointments

every six to eight weeks will keep Rover's skin and coat shining and healthy while reducing shedding too!

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