

PET SAFETY FOR EVERY SEASON

THIS CHECKLIST COVERS THE RISKS YOUR PET FACES AS THE SEASONS CHANGE AND TIPS ON HOW TO PREP AND KEEP THEM SAFE THROUGH EVERY SEASON!

IF YOUR PET BECOMES AT RISK OR EXPERIENCES ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS MENTIONED, CONTACT YOUR PRIMARY OR EMERGENCY VETERINARIAN.

WINTER

- ❑ **Cold and freezing temperatures:** on days it falls below 32° don't leave pets outside for extended time. Try pet-friendly coats and booties for walks on winter days. When it's below 20° the potential for frostbite and hypothermia increase significantly. Skip walks altogether on those days!
- ❑ **Ice:** keeping all outdoor areas free of ice to prevent slipping and damage to pets' pads and legs.
- ❑ **Antifreeze and winter salt:** don't let your pet ingest these toxins. Dry their paws before they come inside and check to make sure the salt is not stuck within their toes - especially for webbed paws!
- ❑ **Holidays:** top risks include packages, chocolate, poinsettias, Christmas lights, tinsel and ribbon, and ornaments. Wait to put the presents out, eliminate the use of ribbon, and put dangling ornaments out of reach.



SPRING

- ❑ **Allergies:** common in dogs, symptoms include itchy skin, licking or chewing of the paws, and ear infections.
- ❑ **Spring cleaning time:** common cleaning products can be poisonous for pets. Keep your cleaning supplies stored safely away and keep windows open when cleaning for good ventilation.
- ❑ **Gardening & landscaping:** plant pet-safe flowers and plants such as sunflowers, marigolds, petunias, pansies, and roses. The same goes for pet-friendly plant fertilizer and mulch.
- ❑ **Puddles:** standing water can contain toxins. Keep your pet from drinking out of puddles or runoff.



SUMMER

- ❑ **Overheating:** prevent your pet from getting too hot, limit their time outside and take shorter walks. Common signs of overheating and heatstroke are excessive panting, rapid heart rate, vomiting, muscle tremors, and lack of urine.
- ❑ **Hydration:** keep your pet well-hydrated on hot days! Always take water with you on hikes or walks. If you are struggling to get your dog to drink enough water, entice them with plain ice cubes or frozen pet-safe fruits.
- ❑ **Vacations:** headed on vacation without your pet? Make sure your pet sitter has contact info for you and the vet, and make a detailed list of your pet's needs and a schedule.



AUTUMN

- ❑ **Ticks:** especially prevalent during the change from summer to fall, make sure you do daily 'tick checks' after pets have been outside. Run your fingers or a comb through their fur, checking the entire body! For pets with long fur, separate their fur to check their skin. Common areas of ticks on pets are on the head, ears, under the collar, their bellies, and the armpits. All dogs and outdoor cats should be on a flea and tick medicine.
- ❑ **Halloween & Thanksgiving:** chocolate and turkey are unsafe for pets to ingest. Store all Halloween candy and sweets away safely and keep a watchful eye on the dinner table. Large gatherings can also be stressful for pets. Be aware of their behavior during parties and check on them frequently.

