

News From OurDogHouse

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OurDogHouse wishes everyone a very happy and prosperous 2009! Thank you for joining us for another year of new articles, helpful tips, and great products!

Parade of Pups

Many of you took notice of our holiday "parade of pups," which displayed a new breed on our homepage every two days during the Christmas season. We plan to do another one for Valentine's Day. To view the parade of Valentine's pups, simple drop by ourdoghouse.com each day beginning February 1st through the 14th.

You Can Follow OurDogHouse on Twitter

That's right; now you can follow our paw prints on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ourdoghouse) or visit our Twitter update page on our [website](http://ourdoghouse.com).

Our Featured Product



This month's featured product is available in all of our breeds and on a variety of products including bumper stickers, mugs, sweatshirts (perfect for cold weather) and more. And, no need to worry; OurDogHouse believes in equal opportunity so we also offer the saying, "A Man and His (breed)...A Beautiful Thing." Click here to go to OurDogHouse online store.

2. Oatmeal, Not Just for Breakfast

Oatmeal, Not Just for Breakfast

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Ah, nothing warms the body better than a steaming bowl of oatmeal on a cold winter morning. Oatmeal gained tremendous popularity back in 1997 after the FDA allowed products containing oat bran or rolled oats to include verbiage on package labels claiming that it aids in reducing the risk of heart disease. However, are you aware of the bountiful benefits of oatmeal for your pooch's skin and coat?

Historical research has shown that the Romans and Egyptians used oatmeal for skin care and baths centuries ago. They believed that oatmeal was not only a cleanser, but also protection for the skin itself. In 1978 the FDA acknowledged the benefits oatmeal provided to skin by approving colloidal oatmeal as a natural skin protector. Colloidal oatmeal in its simplest form is oatmeal that has been ground into a very fine powder so as to mix it with other products.

Today, even your pets can benefit from the healing principals of oatmeal. A wide variety of products to choose from including shampoos, conditioners, and skin moisturizers are available to help Fido with dry, itchy skin. Not only does oatmeal help with that itchy skin, by its mere makeup it soothes irritation and helps heal the skin. Pet owners can find readily available products containing oatmeal pre-packaged for purchase. Nonetheless, I am sure some of you may want to try your hand at doing it yourself. While a good quality coffee grinder or mill can do the job of grinding the oatmeal into a powder, you need to understand that instant oatmeal does not work. You will need to find the old fashion type of oatmeal.

Furthermore, while oatmeal can provide tremendous benefits to the skin and coat, you should first contact your veterinarian. Skin and coat problems may be the result of many things such as thyroid problems or allergies.

3. A Winter's Tail

A Winter's Tail Cold Weather Tips for Your Pet Copyright © OurDogHouse

Many of us are in the midst of winter with snow, ice, and blustery winds. The cold weather can affect our pets in many ways. Here are some guidelines to help you protect them when the mercury drops.

1. You may think that your dog's fur coat is enough to keep her/him warm enough in the winter. Think again; hypothermia occurs when a dog's internal temperature drops below 96 degrees F as a result of being exposed to cold weather for long periods of time, or getting both wet and cold. This is a serious risk to a dog's safety. Small and shorthaired dogs should wear coats or sweaters when taken for walks during cold winter weather. Additionally, puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs. Any sign that a dog is very cold - such as shivering - should signal the owner to bring the dog indoors immediately.

2. Ice-melting chemicals and salt can cause burning and irritate your dog's footpads. When possible, avoid walking on these substances. Dogs can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking their paws. Paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice. Wash your pet's paws as soon as you return home.

3. If your dog frequently lifts up his paws, whines or stops on his walks, his feet are more than likely uncomfortably cold. Products such as Musher's Secret, a small amount of petroleum jelly, cooking oil or cooking spray applied to your dog's feet before taking him out may help to protect paws. Make sure you use oil that can be eaten since most dogs lick their paws. Consider getting boots for your dog as a better alternative.

4. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Dogs can easily lose their scent and become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than any other time of the year, so make sure yours always has a form of ID.

5. Never leave your dog alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the dog to freeze to death.

6. Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.

7. If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities, increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him-and his fur-in tip-top shape.

8. Snow and ice are not acceptable substitutes for fresh drinking water. The truth is that eating snow requires a tremendous amount of energy, and body heat to melt the snow in the first place. Additionally, the amount of water in snow is several times less than the amount of snow was originally. A bucket of snow will melt down to a very small amount of water.

9. Make sure your companion has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from drafts. A cozy dog bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

If your dog appears to have any ill effects from being out in the cold, you should immediately consult your veterinarian. While it may be tempting to stay inside, curled up by the fire, a brisk walk is good for both of you. It can also help to prevent you and Fido from having to lose extra weight when spring rolls around.

We hope you have enjoyed this month's newsletter and we welcome you to forward this issue to anyone else who might also enjoy it. If you have suggestions for future stories, we'd love to hear them! Please feel free to email your comments and suggestions to [OurDogHouse](#).

To check out our past issues of our newsletter [click here](#).

Just This Side *of* Heaven



A must read for every pet lover
no matter what breed you own.

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