

Fall and Winter Dangers for Outdoor (Roaming) Cats and Dogs

It is always best to keep pets indoors. It is healthier and safer. Quite a few dangers exist for outdoor animals, such as:

- Many people put chemicals on their lawns in fall, and none of these are safe for animals, regardless of company claims.
- Spilled anti-freeze is lethal for animals.
- Cats will often seek the warmth of an outdoor car's engine, with hazardous consequences when the car is started the next morning.
- People who are frustrated with roaming cats and dogs may use poisons to rid themselves of the problem.
- Unfortunately, there are sick people in the world who delight in causing pain to animals. Why tempt fate? *Keep pets indoors.*

Fall and Winter Dangers for Outdoor Dogs

Again, it is best to keep pets indoors. However, if you do have an outdoor dog, be sure to provide the proper care:

- Never chain a dog. A fenced yard is optimal.
- *A solid, windproof doghouse is a must.* It should be large enough for the dog to move around in, yet small enough to hold body heat in winter. Many experts recommend the door be offset (not centered) on the house, to provide protection from wind and rain.
- There should be straw or hay inside for added warmth. (Straw is usually used, but some people prefer hay because it *can* deter bugs. The shafts are not hollow like straw, so bugs cannot set up shop inside.) Towels and rugs are not recommended, as they absorb moisture.
- Obviously, water should be regularly checked to make sure it has not frozen. *Fresh water must be available at all times.* It is essential any time of the year.