

Keep pets warm in the bitter cold

By Julie Slack

Metroland Media Group

The bitter cold this week has people scrambling to keep warm, but our four-legged friends need consideration too.

The Oakville and Milton Humane Society (OMHS) reminds animal owners and pet sitters that this time of year can be harmful to our furry friends.

Exposure for prolonged periods of time can cause hypothermia to them, just like it does to humans, said OMHS Executive Director Kim Millan.

Even minutes exposed to temperatures below zero, like we're seeing now, can cause frostbite.

She suggested limiting exposure to the cold for all pets and trying to avoid letting cats go outside. Dogs and cats are safer indoors in all sorts of weather.

"The rule of thumb, if it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet," she said. "Do not leave pets alone in the car in the cold, it will be like sitting in a refrigerator."

For dogs, she also added the importance of wiping down their feet, legs and tummy after walks because of the accumulation of the salt.

"Salt can hurt the paws, but if the dog starts licking himself, you also don't want to get all the chemicals from the salt in his system because it could make him ill," Millan said. "The salt is very abrasive to the tender paws of the dog and if the dog starts to lick his feet, they will ingest the salt, causing further discomfort and possible sickness."

She reminded drivers to bang the hood of their car on cold mornings before starting their car.

"Before you get into car, hit the hood of the vehicle, in case a cat or wild animal crawled in there because of the warmth of the engine," she said.

Another harmful substance people need to remember, Millan said, is antifreeze and its sweet taste. People should clean up spilled antifreeze if they see it.

"Pets are attracted to that, and if owners think there pets have licked up any antifreeze, it's quite lethal. Take them to the vet."

Finally, make sure your pets have proper identification, including collar, licence tag or microchip so they can be reunited with their owners if they ever become separated, Millan reminded pet owners.



Pets need consideration during the bitter cold. The Oakville and Milton Humane Society suggests limiting exposure and keeping dogs and cats indoors during the extreme cold temperatures. This pooch seems to agree, cuddled under a warm blanket.

Thank you Halton Hills!
#1 Retirement Home

Mountainview Residence 222 Mountainview Rd. N., Georgetown

This 82 Suite Retirement Residence offers planned social activities, home-cooked meals served in our lovely dining room, housekeeping and laundry services, nursing staff on site providing healthcare and assistance to enable residents to enjoy a more carefree lifestyle on our 5.6 acre beautifully landscaped site!

We offer a variety of private suites for couples and singles.

Mountainview Terrace
owned & operated by the Summer family

60 apartment style suites for cognitive self-sufficient seniors.

For more information or to enjoy a personal tour
— simply call **905-877-1800**.
www.mountainviewresidence.com

ORCA

2004 CHOICE, 2005 CHOICE, 2006 CHOICE, 2007 CHOICE, 2008 CHOICE, 2009 CHOICE

castle building centres **LEATHERTOWN LUMBER**

WINTER PROJECTS

\$1.09 LIN. FT.

1 x 12 Rough Pine Board
Rough white pine boards, great for Board and Batten siding or barn cladding. Available in 6', 8', 10', 12', 14', 16' lengths. Please call for availability.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
PRICING UNTIL JANUARY 31ST

\$14.99

3.78-L. Chain Saw Oil
All season grade oil. (8854846)

\$29.99 EA.

4.5 LB. Fibreglass Maul
V-shape wing design assists with easy splitting. 36" lightweight fibreglass handle

\$10.99 BAG

Ice Melter
20kg. Castlegard Ultra Green Ice Melter. Safer for pets and the environment.

Leathertown LUMBER

264 Main Street North, Acton
519-853-1970 **416-601-1259**

www.leathertownlumber.ca • Mon-Fri 7-6; Sat 8-4; Closed Sun