Winter Dog Care Reminder

For some puppy raisers, this will be the first winter that you are caring for one of our Guiding Eyes for the Blind pups. For others, you are seasoned veterans who are familiar with most of these pointers. Either way, please review and share these reminders with any of your friends and family who help care for the pup. Thank you!

- If it is cold for you, it is cold for the pup. If the pup has cold pads due to walking in snowy or icy conditions, or if there are very cold temperatures the pup may stop walking, hold up his legs and/or try to lie down because it hurts too much.

- Frostbite of the tips of the ear flaps can be of concern during extremely cold weather and low wind chills. The amount of time a Guiding Eyes for the Blind pup can spend outside is determined by the age of the pup, the air temperature, and the wind chill factor. Use the chart below to determine the MAXIMUM amount of time a pup or person should be outdoors. Adjust the time downward for young puppies and adolescents that are not full grown, as well as for seniors.

![NWS Windchill Chart](image)

- Some local parks winterize tennis court post holes with deadly antifreeze. The toxin ethylene glycol found in antifreeze is lethal for dogs and often they will consume great quantities before being repulsed by its aftertaste. It does not take a significant amount of ethylene glycol to cause fatal damage to the system; less than three ounces (or 88 ml) of antifreeze is sufficient to poison a medium-sized dog. It affects the brain, liver, and kidneys. Ethylene glycol is also found in some engine coolant and hydraulic brake fluids. If you suspect your pup has ingested ethylene glycol, take the dog to the vet immediately and contact the GEB Vets.
• After each walk, remember to inspect the pup’s paws for any ice, snow, salt or sand which may be stuck in between the pads. These can be irritants and can potentially cause damage. To clean the paw, either dip the paw in room temperature water or use a wet soft cloth to clean out the area then thoroughly towel dry the paw.

• If the pup has cracked, splitting or dried out pads, or if you walk your pup in a heavily salted/sanded area, you may want to get a pair of booties to use when you walk the dog to protect their paws and avoid further damage. Speak to your region team about how to properly introduce your pup to wearing booties.

• As an alternative to walking the dog outside during inclement weather, check for dog friendly locations – malls, indoor tracks, etc., and exercise the pup there.

• Encourage your pup to drink water after each walk and several times throughout the day to avoid dehydration. During colder weather the pup’s drive to drink is not as strong, so encouraging him and reminding him to drink periodically can help.

• Snowballs and ice balls can hurt the pup. Children (or anyone else for that matter) should not throw snowballs or ice balls at the pup for them to catch as this could break or damage a tooth, nose or eye socket.

• Please continue to use flea and tick protection (and Heartworm) on the first of each month. Colder weather may reduce the number of fleas and ticks the pup may encounter but our policy is to treat our pups year-round.

• If you have portable heaters or active fire places in use in your home, please be certain they are not close to the kennel where you crate and leave your pup, and be certain the fireplace has protective screen in front of it. Also, never leave your pup unattended in a room with an active fire burning in the fireplace, or a space heater operating in an area accessible to the pup.