

# Crimson Hound Newsletter

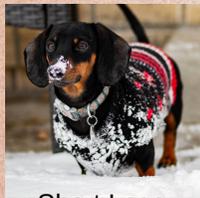
February 2023

## Does my dog need a coat?

**Quick potty break?** A coat and other winter attire are generally not needed.

**Temp or windchill dipping to 32 degrees F?**

These dogs probably need at least a sweater.



Short Legs



Seniors & Dogs  
w/ Medical  
Conditions



**Temp/windchill dropping below 20 degrees F?**

With dogs of any breed or coat type, watch for signs that they are cold - shivering, whining, etc.

**Very active outdoors?** Coats retain extra body heat - you don't want your dog to overheat in the winter.

**NEVER force your dog to wear a coat, sweater, booties or other clothing!** If your dog refuses to wear a coat, then monitor him and limit outdoor time during cold weather.

**Grooming needs.** Consider letting your dog's coat grow out over the winter months for added warmth. Be sure to keep your dog's coat brushed out. A long coat adds extra insulation for your dog, but a matted coat inhibits its insulating power.

## What about those dogs that were bred for cold climates?

Do you have a dog with a thick double coat? Chances are, he loves the cold weather! Huskies, Malamutes, Chows, St. Bernards, Great Pyrenees and other breeds were selected to tolerate the winter elements.

If you do have such a breed and you do keep him outdoor, be sure that you provide:

- unlimited access to fresh water
- extra food to create the energy necessary to keep warm
- a warm dry shelter - floor elevated a few inches off the ground, plenty of bedding (cedar shavings or straw), door is protected from the wind

Even if you have such a breed, they may need to come inside during very cold weather, as they age, or if they are sick.

## Paw Protection

**Your dog's paws need extra care in winter.**

- Nails do not wear down as quickly in winter, so may need extra attention.
- Salt and chemical ice melt can irritate paws
  - Clip the long hair between toes to prevent formation of ice balls
  - Rinse paws after walks
  - Use paw protection products such as Musher's Secret
  - Use booties (only if properly conditioned)

Remember, daily walks are NOT mandatory. Stay home on those super cold days and give added enrichment activities. Check out my [Toss the Food Bowl blog](#) for ideas.



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# The Dangers of Hypothermia & Frostbite



## Symptoms of Hypothermia

- Pale or blue mucous membranes
- Weak pulse
- Dilated pupils
- Decreased heart rate
- Stiff muscles
- Extreme shivering
- Body temp below 95 degrees F
- Unconsciousness



## Symptoms of Frostbite

- Pale, bluish or grayish discoloration of the skin
- Pain
- Swelling and blister formation
- Body temperature can drop - putting the animal at risk for hypothermia

Frostbite can quickly affect ears, tail and paws.

## First Aid for Dogs in Distress

If you suspect that your dog may have frostbite or hypothermia, act quickly. Hypothermia can result in neurological problems including coma, heart problems and kidney failure and even death.

1. Bring your dog inside to warm him up
2. Remove any ice and snow from the dog's coat and paws
3. Cover your dog with warm blankets
4. Call your veterinarian immediately

## Be Prepared!

If you live in areas that may have blizzards or power outages, keep an emergency kit on hand.

- Leash and Collar
- Coat
- Vet Records & Microchip Information
- At least a 5-day supply of:
  - Dog food
  - Water
  - Medications

## Antifreeze is highly toxic!!

Clean up spills and keep any de-icing products safely out of your pets' reach.

[Check out this article for more information on hypothermia and frostbite.](#)



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