

FINAL

ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE
of BOSTON



A champion for animals

CONTACT:

Caroline Samoluk

Dot Joyce Consulting

978-482-5096

caroline@dotjoyceconsulting.com

For Release on:

December 15, 2025

Arctic Conditions Put Pets at Risk: Animal Rescue League of Boston Warns of Freezing-Weather Dangers for Animals

Reports of animals being left out in the cold on the rise this month

****Photos of animals safely outdoors in cold weather available in this [dropbox link](#).***

As frigid temperatures continue to grip the region, the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is urging pet owners to keep animals safe in the extreme cold. ARL has been receiving an increased number of calls from concerned citizens regarding animals being left out in the cold this December.

Here are steps to keep pets safe when temperatures plunge:

1. Prepare your dog for the cold elements. If your dog has a longer coat, let it grow out for the winter; for shorter coat dogs, sweaters, coats and booties can go a long way to protect your pooch.

2. Wipe off your dog's paws and stomach. Chemicals used to treat sidewalks can irritate your dog's paws, and can be poisonous if ingested. When coming in from the cold, clean and dry your dog's paws and stomach to keep them healthy!
3. Keep outdoor trips quick. Bathroom breaks or walks, keep it short and sweet and keep your pets indoors as much as possible.
4. Never leave your dog alone in a cold car. Temperatures inside a car can plummet when the engine is turned off. Just like it's illegal in Massachusetts to leave an animal in a hot car, it's also illegal to leave an animal in a car during extreme cold. When going out, leave your animals at home.
5. Pay attention to your pet's grooming and health. An animal with a matted coat cannot keep him or herself warm! Senior pets also suffer from increased arthritis pain in the cold, so check with your veterinarian on how to keep your pet comfortable.
6. Check under the hood. Cats love to warm up underneath the hood of a car, as the residual heat from the engine burns off. Always pound on the hood of your vehicle and do a quick visual check before starting the engine.

When the mercury dips, there are laws in place to protect animals, including the prohibition of excessive tethering. According to Massachusetts General Law Ch. 140, Section 174E, Subsection D: A person shall not leave a dog outside when a weather advisory, warning or watch is issued by a local, state or federal authority or when outside environmental conditions including, but not limited to, extreme heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or hail pose an adverse risk to the health or safety of the dog based on the dog's breed, age or physical condition, unless the tethering is not for more than 15 minutes.

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

Pets are family. This belief is at the heart of everything we do at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. ARL is the first female-founded animal welfare organization in Massachusetts and is proud to carry on a legacy of kindness and compassion, helping more than 20,000 animals annually since 1899. Recognized for innovative, award-winning programs that go beyond sheltering, ARL addresses the root causes of the issues facing animals and the people who love them. By partnering with communities, ARL helps animals heal and thrive, keeps pets and people together, and protects animals from harm. Because there is no government funding for this important work, animals must rely on people like you to get the care they need, when they need it most, 365 days a year. For more information, visit arlboston.org and follow ARL on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

###