

Alaska SPCA



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November 2008 E-Newsletter

The **Alaska SPCA** would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We are especially grateful for your support and have been hard at work helping Alaska's animals... be sure to read about our activities in the **Fall/Winter 2008 print edition of our newsletter, coming this December.** We value your input and ideas, so please reply to this message with comments, removal requests, or suggestions. Thank you for your support!

Top 10 Cold Weather Tips

Brrrr... is it cold outside! The following guidelines will help you protect your companion animals when the mercury dips.

1. Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, felines can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to infectious diseases, including rabies, from other cats, dogs and wildlife.
2. During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. If there are outdoor cats in your area, bang loudly on the car hood before starting the engine to give the cat a chance to escape.
3. Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm – dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.

Featured Pet



Abby is a typical Weimaraner – very energetic and eager to please. She would do best in active home, as she likes to always be on the go. Call 344-3622 today to find out more and to meet this special girl.

(photo by Alaska Pet-ography)

Help us win the \$1 Million Zootoo Shelter-Makeover Contest

With your help, we have a chance to win up to \$1 million in renovations to our shelter! Click [here](#) for details.



4. When your dog comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice, thoroughly wipe off his legs and stomach. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

5. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. When you bathe your dog in the colder months, be sure to completely dry him before taking him out for a walk. Own a short-haired breed? Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

6. Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold and causing the animal to freeze to death.

7. Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs, and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If your puppy appears to be sensitive to the weather, you may opt to paper-train him inside. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.

8. Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him – and his fur – in tip-top shape.

9. Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Securely store antifreeze out of their reach, and thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle. Be sure to use products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.

10. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

Zootoo Contest

We need your help, and it will not cost you a dime! We are participating in the second annual Zootoo.com National Shelter Makeover Contest. With your help, we could have a chance to win up to \$1 million in renovations to our shelter!

Here is how you can help us:

1. **Log on** to <http://www.zootoo.com/reg/aff/alaskaspcas2>
2. **Register** with Zootoo and affiliate with our shelter
3. **Start earning points** through activities on Zootoo

Pet lovers across America will help decide which pet shelter will receive a million-dollar makeover, simply by being active on Zootoo.

The more active you are on Zootoo.com as an affiliate of Alaska SPCA, the more points you will receive, and the more points we will receive. It is fun, easy and free!

Perhaps you adopted an animal at the Pet Adoption Center,



Antifreeze and Ice Melt Dangers

Antifreeze products containing **ethylene** glycol are highly toxic and can produce life-threatening kidney damage, even in small amounts.

According to a study published by the ASPCA Poison Control Center, most cases of antifreeze poisoning occur around the pet's own home and are usually due to improper storage or disposal.

Ice melts are available in both liquid and solid forms, and are commonly used to melt ice and snow on slippery sidewalks, roadways and driveways during the winter months.

The solid forms, which are granules or tiny pellets, are the variety typically available for residential use. These ice melts may contain ingredients such as calcium chloride and sodium chloride (table salt).

Dermal exposure to paws is very common and can result in irritation of the skin. Additionally, pets may often ingest ice melt from their paws or directly from the ground.

Depending on the amount ingested, ice melts can potentially produce effects such as drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, vocalizing/crying, excessive thirst, depression, weakness, low blood pressure, disorientation, decreased muscle function and in severe cases, cardiac abnormalities.

or shopped in the Thrift Shop, or had a family pet spayed, neutered, vaccinated or micro-chipped in the Clinic. Or perhaps you have had a beloved companion animal buried at our pet cemetery.

A review on Zootoo from you about your positive experience with us will earn points, and increase our chances to win. Please tell your relatives and friends, too, to become an AK SPCA affiliate on Zootoo. The more reviews and activity we get, the more points we get, and the closer we come to winning!

Our little shelter on Arctic Road is a wonderful facility, but it is small and old and in need of major improvements – or ideally, a whole new shelter. We could rescue many more animals who will otherwise be euthanized – healthy, adoptable animals whose time has run out. Please help them. Together we can do more!

**On behalf of the animals you are helping,
thank you very much.**

Business Office & Spay Clinic: (907) 562-2999
549 W. International Airport Rd., Suite B-2
Anchorage, AK 99518
email: clinic@alaskaspca.org

Thrift Shop: (907) 562-1092
549 W. International Airport Rd., Suite B-4
Anchorage, AK 99518
email: thriftshop@alaskaspca.org

Pet Adoption Center: (907) 344-3622
7309 Arctic Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99518
email: adopt@alaskaspca.org

**Click [here](#) to see our adoptable
animals on Petfinder.**

seizures, coma and even death.

As with antifreeze, if you suspect that your pet may have been exposed to an ice melt product, it is important that you immediately consult your veterinarian or the American SPCA [Animal Poison Control Center](#) at (888) 426-4435.

Please visit our website (www.alaskaspca.org) for more information and to see all the wonderful animals waiting for adoption. Information in this email provided by the ASPCA (*no affiliation*).



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