

COLD WEATHER GUIDANCE

Cold weather injuries such as hypothermia and frostbite can be prevented by following a few simple precautions.

How Cold is too cold for dogs to be outdoors?

Dogs vary greatly in their tolerance to cold whether depending on their breed, health, condition, length of coat, size, age and overall fitness. During typical winter days, we need to use common sense when determining whether it is safe for a dog to be outdoors. We need to consider more than just temperature and should take into account other factors including wind chill, whether the ground is frozen or if sun is shining. We also need to consider the type of dog breed, its age and health, length of coat, size and overall fitness level. Deciding when and for how long you should have a dog outdoors for exercise and play should be based on the following guidelines and your best professional judgment after considering all pertinent factors.

In general, Pet Care Technicians (PCT) should limit outdoor activities during National Weather Service (NWS) issued Wind Chill Advisories and Wind Chill Warnings. During a NWS Wind Chill Advisory, PCTs should limit **any outdoor** activity to no more than five to 10 minutes. During a NWS Wind Chill Warning, PCTs should not allow any outdoor activity other than transferring dogs between facilities or potty walks.

Wind Chill Advisory is issued by the NWS when the wind chill temperature is expected to fall between -5F and -20F.

Wind Chill Warning is issued by the NWS when the Wind chill temperature is expected to fall to or below -20 F (for 3 hours).



NWS Windchill Chart



WHAT IS WIND CHILL?

Wind chill is the human perception of temperature created by the combination of the actual temperature and the additional heat loss from exposed skin caused by the wind. This is how cold it "feels" outside (the apparent temperature). The higher the wind speed and the lower the temperature, the greater the wind chill effect.

		Temperature (°F)																		
		Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

Frostbite Times: 30 minutes (light blue), 10 minutes (medium blue), 5 minutes (dark blue)

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})
Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/01

The following is a windchill chart modified by the DogSmith as guidance for PCTs.

	A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1									
2									
3		Wind Speed mph							
4	deg F	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
5	68	69	68	68	67	67	66	66	66
6	59	59	57	56	55	55	54	54	53
7	50	48	46	45	44	43	42	41	41
8	41	38	35	33	32	31	30	29	28
9	32	27	24	22	20	19	18	17	16
10	23	17	13	10	8	7	5	4	3
11	14	6	1	-1	-4	-5	-7	-8	-9
12	5	-5	-10	-13	-15	-17	-19	-21	-22
13	-4	-15	-21	-25	-27	-29	-31	-33	-34
14									
15		Safe for extended outdoor periods							
16									
17		Depending on size, breed and length of coat, limit outdoor exposure to 30 minutes							
18									
19		Depending on size, breed and length of coat limit outdoor exposure to 15 minutes							
20									
21		Depending on size, breed and length of coat, limit outdoor exposure to less than 5 minutes							
22									
23		Frostbite risk - Depending on size, breed and length of coat do not expose dogs to these temperatures							
24									
25		Be particularly conservative for short-haired and small breeds.							