

Medicines That Cure Your Cold Also Can Kill Your Pet

by
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If you are too cold to be outside without a coat, your dog probably is, too. If your cat eats just one of your acetaminophen cold or flu pills, it could be fatal.

Those are just a few of the tips experts offer to keep pets safe this winter. Here are some other basic coldweather precautions with pets from experts and animal welfare organizations.

*From the American Society for,
the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals:*

- Keep your dog leashed in the snow and make sure it has an ID tag. Dogs can lose scents in snow and get lost.
- Keep your dog's coat longer for warmth. If you have a shorthaired pet, get a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck that covers it from the base of its tail to its belly.
- Don't leave a pet unattended in a car. The vehicle can act like a refrigerator, holding in the cold and freezing your pet to death.
- Puppies may be difficult to housebreak in winter. If weather bothers a puppy, try papertraining indoors.
- Make sure, your pet has a warm place to sleep, away from drafts and if possible, off the floor.
- Outdoor cats and wildlife often will sleep under hoods of cars. Bang on the hood before starting the car to give the animal a chance to escape.

*From the Colorado State University
Veterinary Teaching Hospital:*

- Pets, like people, are vulnerable to hypothermia and frostbite. Get your pet to a vet if it is shivering, disoriented and lethargic or, if its hair is puffed out and standing on end. Frostbite can turn skin bright red pale or black. Skin at the

tips of ears and on extremities including reproductive organs, are particularly at risk.

- Antifreeze can be fatal to a pet, even in small amounts. They will need immediate emergency care. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning include drunklike behavior, vomiting, excessive urination, drinking and depression. Pets may appear to recover within a few hours, but the antifreeze continues to poison their systems and is often fatal.

From the Humane Society of the United States:

Dogs kept outdoors should have a dry, draftfree doghouse big enough for the dog to sit and lie down in comfortably but small enough to hold its body heat. The floor should be a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should face away from wind and the doorway, should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

Use plastic food and water bowls instead of metal because your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

*From the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center
in Urbana, Illinois.:*

Use petfriendly versions of products that melt ice on steps, driveways and sidewalks. Products such as Safe Paw and SafeTPet avoid chemicals that irritate pets' paws (and their stomachs, if they lick their paws). The petfriendly products are usually colored so you can also see where you've sprinkled them, said Dr. Camille DeClementi, the Animal Poison Control Center's senior toxicologist.





Top 5 Hotel Pet Amenities That Score Big With Pet Travelers

For pet parents looking for pet travel accommodations that don't just advertise as "pet-friendly" but have made the leap to "pet-loving," sniff no further. There are plenty of 5-paw travel accommodations to choose from.

According to TripsWithPets.com, who recently completed a survey of over 200 pet traveling parents and pet friendly hotels and accommodations that provide the following top 5 pet-loving amenities desired by pet travelers and their pampered pets, win their business every time.

1. **Welcome Gift** —

Accommodations that create a great first impression do so by demonstrating their "pet loving" commitment by delivering first class comfort to their guest's loyal companions. From packaged pet treats (in a paper bag with a pretty bow and personalized tag), to a portable water bowl and chewy ball toy, they offer every four-legged friend their very own welcome gift and watch them wiggle and squirm with delight. They understand that it's the gesture, more than the content or the gift bag that matters. Pet parents appreciate little tokens that welcome their pets as valued guests.

Want to find out what premier pet friendly accommodations include in their pet welcome gift? Check out the Kimpton Hotels and you'll get dog-gone excited!

2. **Pet Bed** —

Traveling can be taxing. Routines are disrupted, new sights and sounds and ex-

periences can exhaust even the hardiest of travelers. Packing is often an issue, too, with little room left over to haul pet bedding and sleeping paraphernalia. Pet lovers look for accommodations that provide clean, well-kept pet bedding to help their four-legged friends drift off to sleep in comfort.

Westin Hotels provide a perfect example of pet pampering by offering dogs designer beds with luxury bedding that includes over-sized pillows. Their stylish dog beds fit the decorum perfectly, matching the design of the human-size beds precisely.

3. **Designated Pet Walking/Potty Area** —

Providing a designated pet walking/potty area complete with poop bags and garbage receptacles are a must-have for pet travelers. It's important that this area be clearly marked and as separate from normal traffic areas, as possible. Fenced in areas are particularly appealing to pet owners as they can keep their pet confined, and safe, while allowing for exercise.

Clean, well-lit and safe are what pet travelers are looking for in outdoor accommodations when they travel with their pets. Check out Candlewood Suites and their PAW program (pets are welcome)—they do a great job with this!

4. **Concierge Services** —

Like their human companions, dogs and cats want to see the sights on their vacation, too. Pet friendly accommodations that sniff out the favorite local pet friendly attrac-

tions and services ahead of time score big with the jet-setting pet crowd. Pet parents look for hotels and accommodations that truly care about pet guests by providing them with what they need to have a happy and safe stay. They want a concierge who is local and knows the area well, and is devoted to making sure their pets have a 5-star vacation experience.

5. **On-Site Pet Services** —

Most accommodations don't allow guests to keep pets in-room unattended, as even the most well behaved may act out when in a strange place. However, on the occasion people guests need to go somewhere without their pet, they are looking for the convenience of on-site pet services that include feeding, refilling water bowls, walking dogs around the immediate vicinity, changing litter, administering meds and providing affection, as needed. Some pet friendly hotels go so far as to offer pet massages and basic grooming!

Today's savvy pet friendly hotels and accommodations keep in tune to the pet traveler's wants and needs and cater to both pet parents and their precious pooches and kitties by providing pet pampering services that leave both pets and owners begging for more.

TripsWithPets.com is the premier online guide for pet travel—offering resources to ensure pets are welcome, happy, and safe when traveling. Visit www.tripswithpets.com, to find a directory of pet friendly hotels and accommodations across the U.S. and Canada, airline pet policies, pet travel tips, dog friendly beaches, pet travel supplies, along with other pet travel resources.

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Christmas Is Love

It's the day before Christmas
And all through the house
The puppies are squeaking
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath, which had merrily
Hung on the door,
Is scattered in pieces
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung
In a neat little row
Now boast a hole in
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected
To bright-eyed whims,
And now, although splendid,
It's missing some limbs.

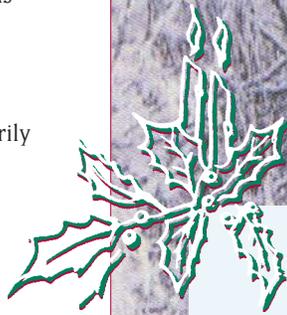
I catch them and hold them.
"Be good," I insist.
They lick me, then run off
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them
The thought comes to me,
That theirs is the spirit
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies
Yet show us the way,
And teach us the joy
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message
That's written above
And tell us that most of all,
Christmas is love.

— Cheryl Graf



Politically Correct Rudolph

Rudolph was a four-hoofed ungulate, who, incidentally, possessed a nasal appendage of a maroon lustre. Consequently, if circumstances were to present themselves that he ever came into your view, you would most undoubtedly remark at its luminary qualities. The multitude of other members of the population in his ecological community had previously teased, chuckled boisterously, and dubbed him unspeakable pseudonyms, the objective of which was to lower his self-esteem and make him miserable. They also excluded him from participation in leisure activities consistent with their species.

However, on the twenty-fourth of December in an unspecified year...

A mythological, supernatural being inherent to western culture (who symbolizes the Christmas attitude and allegedly brings gifts to children) arrived through the supersaturated, humid air. He formally invited Rudolph, due to his extraordinary nasal characteristic, to stand at the forefront of his snow vehicle with the express purpose that he navigate through the nocturnal mist.

At that point, the multitude of other members of the population in his ecological community who had previously teased, chuckled boisterously, and dubbed him unspeakable pseudonyms, reversed their disposition toward Rudolph to a more congenial, amicable relationship. They consequently exclaimed with great exaltation and fervor, Rudolph, the antlered mammal with a maroon nasal appendage, you shall most certainly be recorded in the annals of time, and your memory will be preserved for posterity!

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Three Rivers SSC of Greater Pittsburgh — February 2, 2013

Washington, PA

Breed: Linda C. More Sweepstakes: Terry Jennings

Obedience and Rally: Jeff Showman

All-Breed Obedience: Janet Lewis

Event Secretary — Clantyre Show Secretary Services

Rhonda Toren, 5474 Delphinium Ct. Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 997-3698

Three Rivers SSC of Greater Pittsburgh — February 3, 2013

Washington, PA

Breed: Nan Bodine

Sweepstakes: Nancy Glabicki

Obedience: Janet Lewis

Rally: Jeff Showman

Event Secretary — Clantyre Show Secretary Services

Rhonda Toren, 5474 Delphinium Ct. Columbia, MD 21045

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ASSA National Specialty — April 20-27, 2013

Linn County Fair & Expo Center, West Albany, OR

Breed: Marjorie Tuff

Dogs: Jo Virden

Bitches: Yvonne DeFreitas

Futurity: Judy Decker

Jr. Showmanship: TBA

Obedience (*pending AKC approval*)—

Open A, Utility B, Veterans: Suzi Bluford

Novice A, Open B, Utility A: Carol Callahan

Novice B, Beginner Novice A, Beginner Novice B:

Lori Drouin

Rally (*pending AKC approval*)—

Novice A and B, Advanced A and B,

Excellent A and B: Pamela Weaver



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