CHICAGO WINTER DOG CHEAT SHEET

For pit mixes, greyhounds and every dog built like a T-shirt.

CHECK THE WIND CHILL, NOT THE THERMOMETER

Above 32°F	20°F to 32°F	0°F to 20°F	Below 0°F
Check comfort; coat for thin dogs	Coat on; loop close to home	Coat and booties; very short loop	Potty break near the door

Rough planning examples, not safe-exposure limits. Ask your vet about walk lengths.

A GOOD WINTER COAT

- Covers the chest and belly
- Blocks wind and sheds snow
- Pit mixes: deep chest cut
- Greyhounds: long back, high collar
- Leash hole and reflective trim

ROAD SALT ROUTINE

- Booties on salted days
- Walk the middle of the sidewalk
- Wipe paws, legs and belly at the door
- Pet-friendly ice melt on your own steps
- No snacking on gray snow piles

TURN AROUND IF YOU SEE

Lifting paws / Shivering / Hunched back / Tucked tail / Pulling toward home

NEW THIS WINTER?

Shovel a potty patch by the door. Treat the second your dog finishes. Use secure walking gear and a light-up tag after dark. Keep the first 2 weeks quiet.

WORST WEEK OF JANUARY

Sniff for meals / 5-minute training / Supervised chew time / Short sniff outings when comfortable

CALL THE VET IF YOU SEE

Shivering that won't stop, pale skin, stiff muscles, shallow breathing, or pale, firm, cool skin on ears, tail or paws. Seek prompt veterinary help. Wrap in dry towels; do not rub frostbite or use direct heat.

Vomiting or diarrhea after licking salt also needs veterinary advice.

BY THE NUMBERS

25.2°F: Chicago's normal January temperature. -50°F: Northerly Island wind chill on January 30, 2019. Source: National Weather Service Chicago.

letthembedog.com/blog/how-cold-is-too-cold-for-dogs

This article shares what we have learned from our own experience. It is not medical advice, and we are not veterinarians. If you have any concerns about your dog's health, please check with your vet.