

Keep Pets Safe And Warm During Winter Weather



Just as people prepare their homes, cars and families for extreme temperatures and weather events of winter, it’s important to remember pets’ needs this time of year.

As cold weather sets in, Dr. Jennifer Freeman, DVM, resident veterinarian at PetSmart, shares these tips to prepare and ensure pets are warm and happy throughout winter.

Take Caution When Outdoors

When temperatures reach levels of extreme cold, Freeman recommends limiting outdoor walks and monitoring a pet’s behavior for signs of stress or discomfort. Letting your dog outside to use the bathroom or go for a quick walk is OK, but never leave a pet outside for a long period of time, especially during a winter storm.

“Don’t let your dog off its leash after snowfall, as snow can mask familiar scents,” Freeman said. “This can cause your pet to become disoriented or lost if they get too far away.”

Add Extra Layers

Despite efforts to limit time outdoors, pets need to go outside for bathroom breaks and exercise. Pets who are small, short-haired, old or have any health issues or illnesses may be more sensitive to cold weather.

Pet sweaters can help keep pets warm. If a pet is shivering, that’s a sign they need extra layers. To help trap body heat and protect paws from extreme cold, consider using booties when venturing outside.

Watch out for Hazardous Chemicals

Many people use snow-melting products like deicers, antifreeze and salt, which can cause skin irritation and be fatal if ingested by a pet. Pet parents should keep an eye on their pets when they’re outside and be mindful of hazards. After a walk, it’s important to thoroughly rinse the pet’s paws and stomach, Freeman said, especially after walking in areas where these products are frequently used.

Keep Skin Protected

Just like humans, many pets get dry skin during the winter. When a pet needs a bath, try using a pet-friendly moisturizing shampoo to help keep skin healthy and hydrated. If the pet’s skin seems extra dry, supplements like fish oil can be

added to a pets’ food to help the skin and coat. It’s important to keep an eye on skin health and check with your vet if issues persist as they could be signs of larger problems.

Have an Emergency Plan

“While creating emergency kits in case of a storm or power outage, don’t forget about your pet’s needs,” Freeman said. “A pet’s kit should include supplies needed to keep them fed, warm and secure during emergency conditions like blizzards or extreme cold.”

Gather any other care items pets may require such as medications, puppy pads, waste bags, litter box supplies and calming spray. Freeman also suggests storing a one-week supply of food in a waterproof container along with bottled water and portable bowls as well as a list of feeding routines and behavioral considerations in case others need to care for a pet.

Ensure Identification Information is Current

While winter emergencies may add to the importance, it’s crucial a pet wears a tag displaying owner’s phone number year-round. Microchip and register a pet with current contact information and tuck a copy of their vaccination and medical records, veterinary contact information and a current photo in your emergency kit.

Find products to help protect pets this winter at PetSmart.com.



WANTED FARMLAND TO RENT in southern Clay or northern Wilkin Counties. Call 701 367-1574.

Food Pantry Available For Those In Need

The Barnesville Area Food Pantry is open and staffed with volunteers each Monday from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

These hours are subject to change to match school closings, snow closures and federal holidays.

The Food Pantry serves residents for Barnesville, Rothsay, Baker, Rollag and surrounding rural areas. Located just north of the library on Front Street (look for the green building).

Persons who may be in need of food and other household necessities, are invited to come in for assistance during regular hours. For emergency assistance or more information, please call 218-493-4397.

REGIONAL REPORT
Rothsay, Minn.
2022 January
Edition

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Tips For Driving In A Winter Wonderland



Though the winter season has its joys, it also brings unique challenges – especially when venturing out in hazardous weather.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, 24% of all weather-related vehicle crashes happen on snowy, slushy and icy pavement, while 15% occur during snowfall or sleet. Here are five tips to protect oneself, loved ones and that vehicle this season.

1. Invest in winter tires. Snow and ice can turn roads into a slippery nightmare, posing a real threat for drivers. Winter tires, also known as snow tires, are uniquely designed to increase traction in these conditions and can help avoid accidents.

2. Clear snow and ice before hitting the road. Though it can be tempting not to, especially when a person is in a rush, they should always fully scrape a vehicle’s windows and remove snow from its surface before driving. Leaving ice and snow to melt is more dangerous than one might think. It can slide down the windshield and block the view of the road, or even fly into nearby traffic, causing damage or obstructing the vision of other drivers.

3. Keep enough distance. Ever heard of the “three-second rule”? Experts recommend leaving three seconds of distance between a vehicle and those ahead. To do this, watch the car ahead pass a landmark, then count to three. It should be at least three seconds before the next car reaches the landmark. When the roads are slick or icy, be sure to widen the gap. Should anyone need to stop suddenly, the extra space will lower the chances of a collision.

4. Slow down! A recent national survey by Erie Insurance found that one in 10 drivers admitted to driving at extreme speeds (20 mph or more over the speed limit) during the early months of the pandemic, and many respondents say drivers are still going way faster than normal. Speeding is always dangerous and can be even more hazardous when roads are icy, making it harder to control the vehicle and avoid skidding. If a vehicle begins to skid, turn the steering wheel towards the direction it needs to go.

5. Monitor and improve driving behaviors. Identify bad habits and become a safer driver year-round with a smartphone app like YourTurn from Erie Insurance. YourTurn analyzes behaviors such as hard braking, speeding and phone use, and offers incentives for safe driving through rewards that can be redeemed for gift cards or donated to charity.

“It’s especially important to be mindful of your driving behavior in the winter time,” says Jon Bloom, vice president of personal auto at Erie Insurance. “By incentivizing safe driving habits, we hope to make the roads safer for everyone.”

For safer driving experiences, be sure people and their cars are prepared to handle road conditions, this season and beyond.

Library To Host History Program On Felix Battles

Join the Friends of the Barnesville Public Library for a presentation about a fascinating local historical figure. Markus Krueger, Programming Director for the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County, will give a free-of-charge presentation about Felix Battles, a Moorhead business man who escaped slavery as a teenager but returned to the south to fight with the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war, he and his family helped establish one of Fargo-Moorhead’s original African-American communities. For 30 years, local historians have been piecing together the details of his life.

Markus will share what is known about Felix Battles’ life and experiences in the Red River Valley, as well as a project to build a statue of him that is in the works. The program will be held at the Barnesville Public Library, 104 Front St. N., on Thursday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome and this event is offered free-of-charge.

Ask A Trooper

By: Minnesota State Patrol Sergeant Jesse Grabow

Question: My wife slid off the state highway this morning. She came to a stop in the median ditch, unhurt but rattled - only needing to be pulled out. When she called me I told her to call the State Patrol and stay in the car until you arrived. What is the right procedure to follow when a driver ends up stuck in the ditch? Do you contact the towing company or is that the responsibility of the stuck driver?

Answer: First of all, I am glad she is all right. Secondly, thank you for the email as this is a great topic. Minnesota State Troopers have responded to approximately 6,916 vehicles that have slid off the highway in 2021 and needed assistance. This does not include crashes, motorist assists and other calls for service.

If you slide off the highway, the first thing a person should do is assess the situation.

- Is anyone injured? If so, call “911” immediately.
- Are you in a safe or dangerous location? Generally, it is best to stay in your vehicle as it will offer you some protection.
- Is your vehicle partially on the highway in the traffic lane? Are you on the bad side of a hill or curve? If so, you and your occupants might be safer leaving the vehicle. However, do not stand on the highway. Find a location that is safe and far off the highway.

After it is safe and reasonable, please report the incident as soon as possible. Be prepared to give your location and a brief description of what happened.

If you are stuck in snow, mud or for whatever reason, you can call a tow truck or ask the dispatcher to have them send one. If you do call a tow, tell the appropriate law enforcement agency (State Patrol/Sheriff/Police) to help prevent doubling up and keeping responding resources available for others.

State Troopers and other law enforcement agencies will help with traffic control and provide scene safety as the tow truck operators go to work. Even for a vehicle breakdown or flat tire, call in and we will do our best to respond and help keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trooper Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us.

ROTHSAY AREA CHURCH NOTES

All area churches are welcome to submit their church notes to be published in the Rothsay Regional Report. Please email to newsrecordreview@bvillemn.net or they may mailed to the Rothsay Regional Report, PO Box 203, Rothsay, MN 56579

ROTHSAY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rothsay, Minnesota
Pastor Jason Ritz
Church: 218 867-2268
website: rothsaybaptist.com
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.

LAKES AREA WORD FELLOWSHIP
Vergas, Minnesota
Spirit-filled Family Church
Pastors Larry and Terry Vosika
Telephone: 218 847-8499
Church: 218 342-2620
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship service at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays - Midweek services, 7 p.m.
Remember a church that’s alive is worth the drive.

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Parish Office 218 867-6557
Rothsay, MN
Pastor Randy Whitehead
Tuesday, January 11 - Joshua Bible Study, 12 noon.
Thursday, January 13 - American Legion Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, January 16 - Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m.
Monday, January 17 - Tai Ji Quan, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18 - Joshua Bible Study, 12 noon.
Wednesday, January 19 - Confirmation, 5:30 p.m. WOW & Council, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 20 - Tai Ji Quan, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 23 - Coffee Hou, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. Youth Service Event, TBD.
Monday, January 24 - Tai Ji Quan, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 25 - Joshua Bible Study, 12 noon.
Wednesday, January 26 - Confirmation, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
Thursday, January 27 - Tai Ji Quan, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 30 - Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.
Monday, January 31 - Tai Ji Quan, 4:30 p.m.

LITTLE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Parish Office 218 867-6557
8 Miles SE of Barnesville
Sunday, January 16 - Worship, 8:45 a.m.
Sunday, January 23 - Worship, 8:45 a.m.
Sunday, January 30 - Worship, 8:45 a.m.

SOUTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Mailing Address: PO Box 93
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Location Address: 38041 Cty Hwy 21
Rothsay, MN
Pastor Phil Tobin
Telephone: 218 731-4353
Church Secretary: 218 863-4085
Sunday, January 16 - Annual Meeting, 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. No Sunday School.
Sunday, January 23 - Worship, 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. Sunday School.
Sunday, January 30 - Worship, 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. Sunday School.

NORTH IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
12713 County Road 30,
Pelican Rapids, MN
Office: 218 863-5447
Monday, January 10 - Deadline for Annual Report items.
Wednesday, January 12 - Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Confirmation, 6 p.m.
Sunday, January 16 - Worship with Holy Communion, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 19 - Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Confirmation, 6 p.m.
Thursday, January 20 - Deadline for February Seed & Feed and Calendar.
Sunday, January 23 - Worship, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 26 - Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Confirmation, 6 p.m.
Sunday, January 30 - Worship, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m.



Hospice Offers Free Grief Support Groups

Hospice of the Red River Valley announces its 2022 grief support group and monthly grief class offerings. Groups and classes will be a mix of online and in-person sessions. Our grief support groups and classes offer attendees a safe, supportive environment for sharing their grief and learning from others who have experienced a loss through death.

- Support Groups
Grief Journeys for Adults: For anyone 18 years and older who has experienced a loss through death. Offered three times per month.
• Grief Journeys for Widows: For women who have experienced the death of a partner. Offered twice a month.
• Pregnancy & Infant Loss: For anyone who has experienced the death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth or in the first year of life. Offered once a month.
• Life & Pregnancy After Loss: For anyone who is pregnant or has given birth to a living baby after previously experiencing pregnancy or infant loss. Offered once a month.
• Widow/Widower Connect: This is an ongoing online support group for those who have lost their spouse or partner by death and are in their young to middle years of life. Offered once a month.

Monthly Grief Classes
We offer free monthly grief classes and workshops throughout the year covering a variety of topics, including classes for adults and youth. Classes are held on the first Thursday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Classes include:
• Music, Art & Grief - Feb. 3
• Loss of a Child: Honoring a Parent’s Grief - March 3
• Navigating Grief & Self-care for Yourself & Others - April 7
• Hands-on Grief Class for Adults - May 5
• Journeying Through Grief - June 2
• Hands-on Grief Class for Kids - August 4
• Pets & Loss - September 1
• Pregnancy & Infant Loss - October 6
• Grief During the Holidays - November 3
• Hands-on Grief Class for Adults - December 1

All grief support groups and monthly grief classes offered by Hospice of the Red River Valley are free and open to the public. Registration is required for in-person support groups and all monthly classes. For more detailed information about groups and classes, visit www.hrrv.org/calendar/.
For questions or to register, call 800 237-4629 and ask for the grief department or email grief@hrrv.org.



Reaching Lawmakers

Rep. Jeff Backer, R
MN House 12A
651 296-4929
rep.jeff.backer@house.mn

Senator Al Franken
U.S. Senate
651 221-1016
www.franken.senate.gov

Congressman Collin Peterson, DFL
US Congress District 7
202 225-2165
collinpeterson.house.gov

Senator Torrey Westrom, R
State Senate District 12
651 296-3826
sen.torrey.westrom@senate.mn

Senator Amy Klobuchar, DFL
U.S. Senate
888-224-9043
www.klobuchar.senate.gov

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