

Northwoods Humane Society, Deanna Persson, President

Even though it is cold outside, the Northwoods Humane Society is feeling warm and grateful.

THANK YOU! To all of you that helped us reach our Holiday Matching Challenge of \$31,000. Not only did we meet the challenge, your gifts helped us exceed the challenge. What a fabulous way to start the new year. Our treasurer, Marcia McIntosh has been busy making the deposits and Cherie Arzola and Charmaine Metzinger are writing out the 'thank you' cards to our many supporters.

The Northwoods Humane Society Shelter Manager, Alecia Austin is going to be posting each day of the week at noon, an article about animals, facts, tips, health care or general information.

The following was the first post and it addresses the challenges of cold weather and pets.

### Safety Tip Sunday: Protecting Your Pet's Paws in Below-Zero Weather ❄️

Winter can be beautiful, but it also brings challenges for our furry friends, especially when it comes to paw health. Extreme cold, snow, and ice can put your pet's paws at risk. Here's how to keep them safe and comfortable:

#### ❶ Beware of Frostbite

When temperatures drop below freezing, frostbite can set in quickly, especially on sensitive areas like paw pads. Watch for signs like discoloration (pale or grayish-blue), swelling, or your pet licking their paws excessively after being outside.

How to Protect Against Frostbite:

Limit outdoor time: Keep walks short during extreme cold.

Use booties: Invest in pet booties to shield paws from the cold and icy surfaces. Look for ones with good traction and insulation.

Check paws: After outdoor time, examine paws for any signs of frostbite or injury.

#### ❷ The Hidden Danger of Driveway and Road Salt

Salt and de-icing chemicals used on roads and driveways can be toxic to pets and harmful to their paws. These substances can cause irritation, cracking, and even burns. If ingested while licking their paws, they can lead to stomach upset or worse.

How to Prevent Salt Hazards:

Wipe paws: Use a damp cloth or pet-safe wipes to clean your pet's paws after every walk.

Pet-safe products: If you use salt on your property, choose pet-safe de-icing products.

Avoid treated areas: Stick to pet-friendly paths or fresh snow where possible.

#### ❸ Cracks, Dryness, and Injuries

Cold weather can dry out paw pads, leading to painful cracks or bleeding. Sharp ice and hidden debris can also cause cuts or injuries.

Preventing Cracked and Injured Paws:

Moisturize: Use a pet-safe balm to keep paw pads hydrated and supple. Avoid human lotions as they can be toxic to pets.

Regular trims: Keep the fur between your dog's toes trimmed to prevent ice balls from forming.

Inspect often: Check for cuts, cracks, or foreign objects stuck in their paws after every outdoor adventure.

#### 4 Indoor Safety Matters Too

When your pet comes back inside, their paws may still be at risk. Warm them gently, but avoid using heating devices, which can cause burns. Warm water or a soft towel works best.

By taking these steps, you can help your pet enjoy the winter wonderland safely and avoid paw-related problems. Share this post to spread awareness, and let's keep those paws happy and healthy all winter long! 🐾

NHS BINGO at POWELL's on Round Lake IS COMING!

Save the Dates: March 7, 20, April 3 and 17 and May 1