

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue

Golden Rule Dog Training

Baby its cold outside!

We adopt our goldens to people who make their dog part of the family and commit to keeping him indoors at night; however, if you have to leave your dog outside during the day, you must provide a warm place for your dog to escape the elements.

One way to check if your dog's cold weather hideout is warm is to get in it yourself and see if it provides you with adequate shelter from the cold and wind. You may want to look at a solution, such as a dog door into the garage, a basement enclosure or a spare room. If your dog and other domestic animals are going to be outside during the day, they must have shelter from the rain, wind and snow.

Please make sure:

- Your dog has a warm, comfortable place to sleep that is free of cold drafts. This can be as simple as laying a blanket on the floor in a warm spot. Keep an old towel or washcloth by the door to dry off your dog's paws and belly after going for walks. Wash and clean your dog's toys, and make sure she has plenty of things to do to avoid winter boredom.
- To resist the temptation to outfit your dog with a winter sweater; Golden's are born with a fur coat and most dog clothing and accessories are more enjoyable to pet owners than the pets! For some fearful dogs clothing can actually distress the dog.
- To clear a potty path: If you have leaves or snow, clear the area where your dog regularly goes potty; this will help keep the dog on track with housetraining.
- To play with your dog! Taking regular daily breaks to play with your dog will provide necessary exercise. If you have to stay inside on a particularly bad day, teach your dog a new trick, or see our article on 'Exercising Your Dog's Brain' located on our website.
- When walking your dog near ice, use extra caution to avoid slipping. Always keep a close watch your dog and be sure he stays nearby. Do not allow your dog to run across frozen bodies of water - he could fall into icy water if the ice is too thin!
- If you use an indoor or outdoor fireplace, always keep a safety guard around it in order to protect your dog away from the flames and soot. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- If your dog is in the cold and begins excessively shaking or shivering, get him back to warm shelter as soon as possible. If you suspect your dog is developing hypothermia, bring him to a vet immediately!
- Avoid letting your dog eat snow or anything else on the ground. It can be dangerous as objects or chemicals may be hidden in the snow. Also, eating snow this can cause stomach upset and even hypothermia. Always keep fresh room temperature water available at all times.
- Pet ID tags are a necessity all year; this is a reminder that pets may become disoriented or separated from you in a storm or while out running in the snow. It could mean the difference between life and death.
- Fresh water is a must at all times! Pets are not able to get enough water from licking ice or eating snow. A heated dish is a good alternative for cold climates. The water stays cold, but doesn't freeze.

