

Please Don't Keep Your Dog Outdoors

As “man’s best friend,” our dogs are dependent upon us for their care and well being. They thrive on companionship and interaction with us. For so many of us, they are truly beloved family members. They belong in our homes with us – not in a backyard throughout the seasons - and especially during the frigid cold of winter or the intense heat of summer. Please keep your dogs and cats safe and warm this winter.

In my opinion, it is best to keep our furry friends indoors throughout the seasons. They are happiest and healthiest in a safe, climate-controlled environment surrounded by and interacting with their best friends, their human friends and family members. Of course they enjoy time for play and exercise outside, but they are truly happiest indoors and outdoors by our side.

Dogs are pack animals that thrive on human companionship. They also enjoy and appreciate having a comfortable, quiet, safe and secure place to sleep, rest, and play. Your dog or cat deserves to share your living space with you. Just being with you can be important to his physical and mental well being. Cats or dogs should truly become a part of your home and family.

Did you know that dogs that are kept outside are more difficult to train than those kept inside? They also generally do not make good “guard” dogs. Dogs that are kept in the backyard also have higher rates of euthanasia. They don't have the opportunity to become as socialized as indoor dogs to people and other cats or dogs and may become so fearful or even vicious that they may be required to be euthanised.

Dogs and cats like living indoors with their family. Of course, they can benefit from time spent outside accompanied or in a safe area. But their greatest enjoyment is playtime, exercise and interaction with you.

Dogs left outside may become fearful. They may also become bored and destructive. They may howl or whine and disturb the neighbors. They may also dig up your flowers, vegetables and gardens out of sheer boredom.

Never tie or chain your dog up outside. He is defenseless against the elements and is unable to escape from other people or animals who may harm him.

They may also attempt to escape from the yard. They can be taunted or treated cruelly from youths or adults on the other side of the fence. They may also be stolen or even poisoned.

They also face numerous illnesses or health problems from being left out in the heat or cold including frostbite, dehydration or sunburn and heatstroke in the summer.

In the winter, limit your pet's time outside. Dogs and cats can develop hypothermia or frostbite if left out too long.

Keep your pet well groomed and well fed during the winter months. Grooming helps your dog be well-insulated which will keep him warmer.

Towel dry your pet after walks in the wet or snow, and take a warm wet cloth to clean and dry her paws.

Never leave your dog alone in a car unattended in freezing or below freezing weather. The car can become, in essence, a refrigerator.

Exercise wisdom and compassion – your pet is deserving of warmth,. comfort and safety. If you can provide these, please do.