

## **KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE AND HAPPY IN THE NEW YEAR**

Remember it's still cold outside and January commemorates the new year, so here are a few helpful tips and reminders to keep your pets safe and healthy.

Exercise is good for your pet, even in the wintertime. Regular play time and daily walks will keep your dog in great shape. Remember cats need exercise too. You can provide a stimulating indoor environment for your cat by providing toys, a scratching post and regular play time.

Spay or neuter or pet. If you got a new puppy or kitten of Christmas, it might be too young...but make sure to make an appointment with your veterinarian when your pet is old enough. This one time procedure will help the pet overpopulation problem and will ensure your pet will live a healthier and happier life.

Animals burn more calories to stay warm. Give your pet a nutritionally balanced diet, including access to clean water. If your pet lives outside, check its water to make sure it isn't frozen.

Groom your pet often to maintain a soft, glossy coat. Not only will this help create a trusting bond with a new pet, it will also help keep your pet warm when he is outside. Matted fur won't protect against the cold.

Celebration of the new year means plenty of fireworks and the sound of fireworks can terrify your pet. It may try to run away in fear and maybe out into traffic.

Many pets can become extremely distressed and scared. If your pet does break loose from your home, it may continue to run long distances from your home. Keep your pets indoors on New Years Eve, this is ensure they don't run away. If your pet can't come inside, make sure he is securely confined and restrained in your yard.

Make sure your pet is wearing a collar with identification, rabies and pet license tags. This will help him get back home safely in the event he does get loose. If he does get away, contact Dewey Animal Shelter to see if your pet is there.

Remember.....your pets depend on you for love and care for the duration of its life. So be good to your pet and ensure it lives a healthy and happy life. You will be rewarded with years of companionship!