

Dr. O says....

Was it really almost 60 degrees on Christmas day? This reminds me of my time in Tennessee before I was rescued but I hadn't yet seen a warm Christmas up here in CT!

Since we believe that cold weather and snow WILL come, to those of you, who brave walking the green this time of year with your four legged friends, remember to protect those paws. After the walk, check the pads and fur between to ensure that they are free of road salt. There are products on the market (e.g. Musher's Wax) to protect paws from pad burn; ask your veterinarian about options if you and your pet are avid winter walkers. I am often asked about paws and personally, I don't mind the snow but I have a different hair type than many of my friends. My Sheltie housemate, for example has that soft, flyaway fur that snow sticks to between her paw pads. She is a great Musher's Wax candidate. I only use it out on roadways or paths that have been salted but many friends will be more comfortable with it while out in the snow. If you see your friend stopping in the snow to gnaw on their paws, then you know they would benefit from hair trims and paw wax. Just ask Sindy at the office, she always has some available!

Dry skin is a problem this time of year and salmon oil or krill added to their food can be helpful. Flax seed or coconut oil are also a great dry skin remedy for dogs and cats. Do your pets have waxy ears? Corn oil on a cotton ball can help. A drop or two of olive oil in each eye is great for dry eyes or to protect them from soap during a bath.

Do you have any cans of pumpkin left over from the holidays? Fear not, save it for canine and feline constipation! A teaspoon to 1 tablespoon at each meal should have them back to their happy selves again!

If you quick our nails- try corn starch or flour pressed onto the cut surface to stop the bleeding. Just have it handy BEFORE you start clipping their nails. You don't want to start your search after you have bloodied a paw....

Are you still battling fleas leftover from last season? Using either Borax or Diatomaceous earth are great and natural products to sprinkle on your carpets to dry up any flea larvae that might be lingering around. Just sprinkle on your carpets and work into the fibers with a broom before vacuuming up.

C'mon snow!!!

Peace,
Dr. O