

# Cold weather tips

Since we are officially well into the fall season now and winter is just around the corner, I want to share some cold weather tips with you that may make this time of year easier for both you and your animal friends.

The first subject of importance is housetraining. There can be related problems with both dogs and cats at this time of year. I'll start with dogs.

Many do not like to go outside in the rain or when it is cold. Who can blame them really? We don't like it much either. The biggest problem is usually small breeds, younger puppies and older dogs, particularly, the spoiled and lazy models. However, weather sensitive dogs can be any breed, small or large and they can even be created by their humans.

It is very important to note here that dogs are monkey see, monkey doers. They tend to copy our behavior. If one is educating a puppy in the

housetraining department, most do not mind going outside with the pup to supervise and praise the good behavior when the weather is nice. If the

bad feelings and not want to do it. If we make them go alone, they may not go all the way out in the yard and hold it to deposit indoors when let back inside.



## Our Animal Friends

by Martha Norwalk

weather is bad, most humans are very unhappy during the outing or they do not go out at all. The pup must go out all by himself. Therein lies the problem. Dogs pick up on and sense even subtle feelings from their people and they may begin to associate going out in the rain or cold with

Think about this. When the weather is good, you go out with the dog feeling happy and saying something like "Oh boy, outside, let's go outside" and then "Go potty, good, good go potty." This is great and the pup or dog learns to like going outside. But, when the weather is bad, if you have an attitude

change, get grumpy and on the way outside grumble something like "Oh yuck! It's rainy and cold. I don't want to go out. I hate this. Come on Bozo, outside and go potty!" Even if you are only thinking this, pretty soon when the weather is bad, your dog will be thinking "Yuck, it's rainy and cold and I hate this. I don't want to go outside!" And, guess what, you have created the problem.

Understanding this makes it easy to avoid. Keep it in mind when you are raising puppies or working with sensitive dogs. You can convince dogs of almost anything if you have the right sales pitch. So, the yuckier the weather is, the jollier you must be, "Oh boy Bozo, it's raining, let's go outside, oh boy, oh boy," and act like you are going to the party of the year. You can add a tasty little food reward, which must be given on the spot outside, to make

it even more positive for the dog.

With most medium to large breeds this is usually only necessary during the housetraining process. Once the dogs get it, it sticks. With small breeds and sensitive models though, you may need to do a refresher course of outside and jollies in bad weather and during the fall as the weather changes to avoid a relapse in housetraining manners. Elderly or invalid dogs may require this on a

consistent basis.

With all dogs, I think it just makes sense to have a wonderful dry off and warm up ritual after the outings in the rain. Give them something to look forward to.

Now, let's talk about cats. They can be weather sensitive also. Indoor only models, not a problem, but indoor/outdoor models are more likely to have a problem, especially if your

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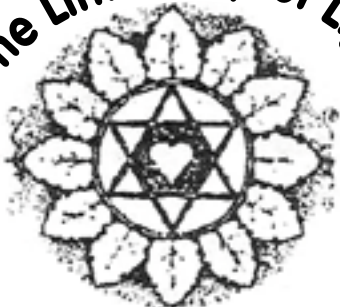
For seriously rain-sensitive dogs, they make doggie raincoats. Some even come with built in hoods or umbrellas. You can make a canine fashion statement in your neighborhood and remember to tell your dog friend how great he or she looks!



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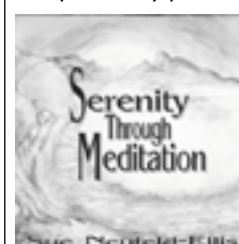
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