

Pets also need winter pampering

By Casey Hans
staff writer

"It's been 20 years since veterinarian John Richardson has treated a frozen tail or frost-nipped ears on a family pet.

And he's never seen frostbite on animals toes, as happens in humans. "They're not long enough," he said. "Frostbite mostly occurs on the tails and ears."

"Most local families take good care of their dogs and cats. About 95 percent of pets are kept indoors, Richardson estimated.

"Most of them go out and come right back in," he said.

Frostbite and damage associated with the cold weather are more prevalent in rural areas, where more animals are kept outdoors.

Even when they're kept inside, caring for pets in cold weather has some special concerns, those who work with animals say.

If Fifi is freezing or Spot is shivering, a variety of animal clothing can be purchased to keep them toasty.

"Dogs can catch cold, too," said pet store owner Chris Euben. "For some of the dogs that get groomed

down quite short, it is kind of smart to buy them a sweater."

RICHARDSON SAID pet sweaters and other items can be useful if taking a pet for a long walk, but in general aren't necessary for the short time pets spend outdoors.

Business has boomed at many Michigan pet supply stores as single-digit temperatures linger. One store sold 15 dog sweaters in the past week, compared with three to five in a normal winter week, and more are being ordered.

Some owners even put boots on their pets. "They look real funny in them," said Doreen Boardley, another pet store owner, said.

"It makes them walk funny. In fact, I just put them on my dogs as kind of a joke. It's just something to look cute."

Richardson said most of these pet booties show up on the ground during the spring thaw.

Cat owners frequently seek advice about keeping their felines warm, store owners said, but veterinarians say keeping their fur from tangling is the best insulation.

Cats generally tolerate cold better than dogs and find places to escape cold on their own, Saginaw veterinarian Virginia Leis said.

"Cats are especially good about it (keeping warm)," Richardson added. "They'll get up next to a house under the shrubs and curl up into a ball."

If a dog stays outdoors for any period of time, an insulated dog house just their size is a must, Richardson said. Pieces of plywood nailed together just won't do. Dog houses should be just large enough to allow the dog to turn around, small enough that a dog's body heat keeps it warmed.

Make it too large, and the dog won't stay warm. "Many people think the bigger the house, the better. When you start building them a penthouse, you get into trouble," Richardson said.

Owners should elevate dog houses, insulate them and provide cedar, saw or other bunting, Leis said. Richardson suggested the house opening be to the east to avoid prevailing south and west winds and the strong winds from the north.

Both also mentioned increasing

pets caloric intake to maintain body temperature, and to increase fat in the diet for extra energy and to help fight the dryness of the house.

Other tips include:

- Keep cats and dogs away from antifreeze, which tastes sweet to the animals but can be fatal to cats within 30 minutes and to dogs within a few hours.

- Be sure your pet has fresh water in cold weather and that it doesn't freeze if kept outside. "There is a greater requirement for fluids in cold weather," Richardson said.

- Get any road salt out of pets' footpads when they come inside to keep the salt from being tracked in, and to keep them from ingesting it during grooming.

- during winter months, shovel a spot in the back yard for a "doggy potty." "They'll use it," Richardson said, and it will make cleanup for the owner easier.

The best protection of all for house pets during winter is to keep them indoors as much as possible, and out of the wind, the experts said.



BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Knit sweaters are a common part of a small dog's winter dress outdoors.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Icy encounter

Leslie Ryder of Midwest Ice takes a picture of which completed a 10-day run Sunday in what almost appears to be the Ice King and Plymouth's Kellogg Park. The show offers Queen, Matthew Underhill of Livonia and Lisa professional and student ice sculptors a Dearbaugh of Farmington Hills, at the sixth chance to display their skills. annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular,

chalkboard

Chalkboard lists events that will take place in Farmington Public Schools through the week. The calendar is compiled by Paul Barber, the schools' coordinator, who can be reached at 471-6441.

Date	school	event	time	location	fee
Jan. 22	Elementary	Parent-Teacher conferences	P.M.	school	free
Jan. 22	Longacre	PTA Book Fair	P.M.	Media	free
Jan. 22	Music teachers	Midwestern Music Conference	All Day	Ann Arbor	fee
Jan. 22	Power	Vision Screening	All Day	School	free
Jan. 23	Inst. Teachers	M.S.B.O.A. winter meeting	4 p.m.	Ann Arbor	free
Jan. 23	Music teachers	Midwestern Music Conference	All Day	Ann Arbor	fee
Jan. 23	Students	SAT test Talent Search	8 a.m.-d	Mercy	fee
Jan. 24	Students	Alternate SAT Test Date	8 a.m.	Mercy	fee
Jan. 25	FHS	Debate Club Meeting	7 p.m.	Upstairs	free
Jan. 25	Power	Vision Screening	All Day	School	free
Jan. 25	Wood Creek	Family Life Program	School	Classrooms	free
Jan. 26	High Schools	Vocal Music workshops	11 a.m.	FHS Aud.	free
Jan. 26	Sp. Ed. Staff	Liability, Spec. Ed. Teachers	3:45 p.m.	DMC	free
Jan. 27	Elem. Teachers	Compacting workshop	8:45 p.m.	DMC	free
Jan. 27	FHS	Senior Parent Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Aud.	free
Jan. 27	PreK Teachers	Learning Centers for PreK & Kind	3:45 p.m.	Fairview Rm. 7	free
Jan. 27	Teachers 7/8	Advanced Language Arts workshop	3 p.m.	DMC	free
Jan. 28	Elementary	Winter Fun Meal Day	Lunch	School	fee
Jan. 28	FHS	Parent advisory meeting	7:30 p.m.	Aud.	free
Jan. 28	Kenbrook	PTS Mother/Daughter Pizza Dinner	6:30 p.m.	Gym	fee
Jan. 28	NFHS	Farm. Hills Chess Club	7 p.m.	Rm. E-2	free
Jan. 28	NFHS	Chamber Ensemble Concert	8 p.m.	Aud.	\$1.50/1
Jan. 28	OM	Local Om Judge's Training	7:30 p.m.	FHS	free
Jan. 28	Teachers	A Novel Approach	4 p.m.	DMC	free



Adeline A. Lafaret, R.N.
President

"Rent-A-Mom"

newborns/sick children
post-hospital adult care

elder care
• nursing/therapy
• personal care services
• homemaking

423-6500



employment opportunities
McAfee/Blue Cross/Private Insurance

OPEN HOUSE at echo park school

Since 1961

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

ENROLL NOW
FOR '88-'89

SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER CAMP

- Parent/Toddler • Pre-School
- Developmental Kindergarten
- Kindergarten

7273 WING LAKE ROAD
Just north of 14 Mile Road
851-1866

Echo Park School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Special Purchase

poly/knit

DRESSES

\$54⁹⁹

If there's one dress you must have in your wardrobe, it's one of these! They go to work or they go out on the town with just a quick change of jewelry or handbag. It's the perfect answer to today's on-the-go woman. Choose either the crush turtleneck or stand neck style in a rainbow of pastels and brights. Available in misses and petites. Sizes 4-14



hadley arden

OAKLAND MALL • EASTLAND MALL • TEL-12 MALL • MEADOWBROOK VILLAGE MALL • TROY • STERLING HEIGHTS • SOUTHFIELD • LIVONIA • DEARBORN HEIGHTS • MT. CLEMENS • WESTLAND • CLAWSON CENTER • FARMINGTON • MONROE • WARREN • TRENTO • SAGINAW