Pets also need winter pampering

It's been 20 years since veterinari-an John Richardson has treated a frozen tail or frost-nipped ears on a family not

frozen tall or frost-nipped cars on a family pet. And he's never seen frostible on animals toes, as happens in humans. "They're not long enough." he said. "Frostible mostly occurs on the talls and ears." "Most local families take good care of their dogs and cats. About 35 per-cent of pets are kept indoors, Rich-ardson estimated.

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

Frostbile 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 posts 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 pot store owner Chris Buben. (For) some of the dogs that get groomed

to buy them a sweater."

RICHARDSON SAID pot sweaters and other terms 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 fumy in them," said boowers, escatalety, and "It makes them walk fumy. In fact, I just put them on my dogs as sixtled of a love Un't sixtless them walk fumy. In fact, I just put them on my dogs as sixtled of a love Un't sixtless comether a least of the sixtle of the sixtle

"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. The spring the spring the spring the spring the workers said, but veterinarians say keeping their fur from tangling is the best insulation. Cats generally tolerate cold better than dogs and find places to escentile the cold on their own, Saginaw veterinarian Virginia Leis said.
"Cats are especially good about it

the cold on their own. Saginaw veter-inarian 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 curt up into a ball."

If a dog stays outdoors for any period of time, an insulated dog house just their sire is a must, Richardson said. Pieces of plywood nalled to-gether just wor'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 bet-ter. When you start building them a penthouse, you get into trouble," Richardson said.

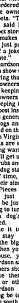
Owners should elevate dog houses, intolate them burning, teles said. Richardson suggested the house opening be to the east to avoid pre-valling south and west winds and the strong winds from the north.

Both also mentioned increasing

 Keep cats and dogs away from tifreeze, 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 sait out of pets footpads when they come inside to keep the sait from being tracked in, and to keep them from ingesting it during grooming.

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.







lcy 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 ofters 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.

chalkboard

. Chalkboard lists events that will take place in Farmington Public Schools through the week. The alendar is compiled by Paul Barber, the schools' coordinator, who can be reached at 471-6441. school location Jun. 22 Elementary Parent-Teacher conferences school free Jan. 22 Longacre PTA Book Fair Jan. 22 Music teachers Midwestern Músic Conference All Day Ann Arbor fee Jan. 22 Power Vision Screening All Day School free an, 23 Inst. Teachers M.S.B.O.A. winter meeting Ann Arbor Midwestern Music Conference Jan. 23 Music teachers All Day Ann Arbor tee Dan. 23 Students SAT test Talent Search Mercy dan, 24 Students Alternate SAT Test Date 8 a.m. Mercy fee Jan. 25 FHS Debate Club Meeting Upstairs 7 p.m. free Vision Screening Jan. 25 Powe All Day School Jan. 25 Wood Creek Family Life Program School Classrooms free Vocal Music workshops Jan. 26 High Schools Jan. 26 Sp. Ed. Staff Liability, Spec. Ed. Teachers 3:45 p.m. DMC free 8:45 p.m. DMC Jan. 27 Elem. Teachers Compacting workshop free Senior Parent Meeting Jan. 27 FHS 7:30 p.m. 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. free Jan. 28 Elementary Winter Fun Meal Day Lunch School tee Parent advisory meeting . Jan. 28 FHS 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 Kenbrook PTS Mother/Daughter Pizza Dinner 6:30 p.m. Gym tee Farm, Hills Chess Club Jan. 28 NFHS Rm. E-2 \$1.50/1 Jan. 28 NFHS Chamber Ensemble Concert 8 p.m. Aud. Local Om Judge's Training 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 Teachers



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