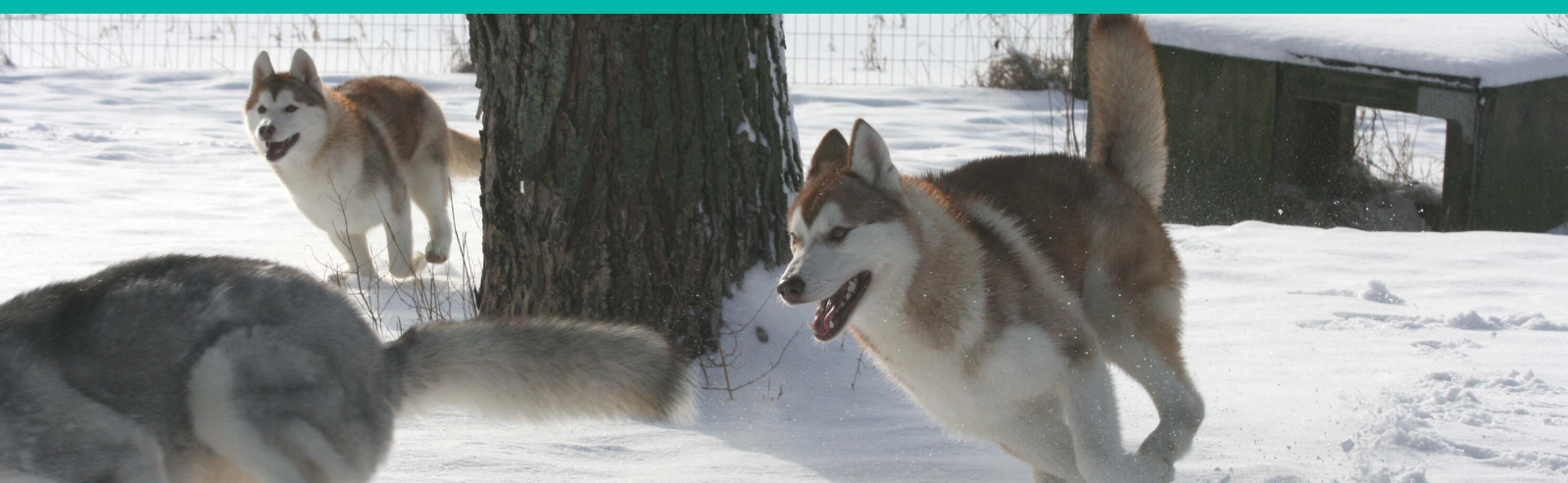


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOGS & THE WEATHER

No dog should be left in conditions where its health and safety are in danger. However, dog breeds are very different and individual breeds can thrive in a variety of temperatures. Arbitrary temperature guidelines inadvertently cause harm by legalizing temperatures that a dog may not be able to tolerate based on their characteristics.



There are numerous factors that impact a dog's ability to handle weather extremes. These include: breed, age, nutritional status, health, and coat density.

Normal body temperature will vary according to individual characteristics. Some dogs will begin to show signs of overheating when the air temperature is 81 degrees Fahrenheit, while others can thrive in much higher temps.



Worried about frost bite on a dog's paws? Research shows the circulatory system in dogs' paws may be uniquely adapted to help them tolerate cold better than people.

Responsible dog owners ensure their dogs have basic necessities to handle the conditions. For example, think about adding a water element for your dogs to cool off, such as a wading pool in the play yards. But make sure they have a separate sturdy water bucket or bowl for fresh drinking water. Keep the buckets and bowls under shade to assure that drinking water stays cool.



Many breeds like the Siberian Husky, Keeshond, and Newfoundland have thick coats with a dense undercoat that works to insulate the dog, keeping them warm in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Always be aware of how your dog is reacting to the heat. A dog cools off by panting, which causes evaporation of saliva. If the environmental air is full of water, saliva can't evaporate and cool dogs when they're panting.

