CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING CLASSES!

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-- ❄️✨⬛ JANUARY CLASSES ⬛✨❄️ --

CLASS	START DATES & TIME	LOCATION
PUPPY	Wed, 1/14 at 4:45pm	**PET SUPPLIES PLUS MONONA**
TEENAGER/BEGINNER	Wed, 1/14 at 5:40pm	**PET SUPPLIES PLUS MONONA**
CANINE GOOD CITIZEN	Wed, 1/14 at 6:35pm	**PET SUPPLIES PLUS MONONA**
NOSEWORK	Wed, 1/14 at 7:30pm	**PET SUPPLIES PLUS MONONA**
RALLY!	Tuesday 1/13 at 6:15pm	**CAMP K9**
CONFORMATION	Tuesday 1/13 at 7:15pm	**CAMP K9**
FIELD TRIP FRIDAYS	Friday 1/16 at 9:15am	Around Dane County

Keeping Your Dog's Paws Healthy in the Snow & Ice

Hi friends!

Winter is officially here, which means we get all the cozy things - snowy walks, crunchy footsteps, and dogs doing zoomies in fresh powder. But it also means cold toes… and cold paws. Snow, ice, salt, and freezing temps can be tough on your dog's feet, so this week's newsletter is all about how to keep those paws safe, healthy, and happy.

Whether you've got a tiny puppy experiencing their first flakes or a seasoned Wisconsin dog who thinks they're part husky, these tips will make winter walks a lot more comfortable.



Why Winter Is Hard on Paws

Snow and ice can build up between the toes, causing discomfort or even small cuts. Add road salt and de-icers into the mix and suddenly your pup is dealing with dryness, cracks, and irritation. Some dogs are stoic, so they won't show you they're uncomfortable, until it becomes a bigger issue. A little prevention goes a long way!

Top Tips for Winter Paw Care

1. Trim the Hair Between the Toes

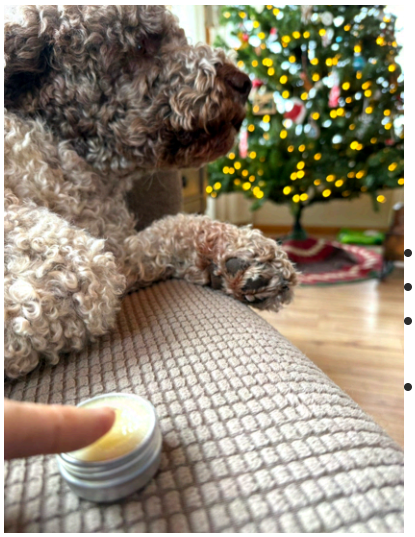
If your dog has fluffier feet, snow can ball up and get painful.
A quick trim between the pads helps prevent ice buildup.
(If your dog is fidgety with feet, practice short, fun paw-handling sessions with a handful of treats!) Here is the trimmer that I recommend: **Paw Trimmer >>**

2. Rinse Paws After Every Walk

Salt and ice melt chemicals can irritate paw pads.
Keep a small towel or bowl of warm water near the door and wipe paws as soon as you come inside. This also prevents your dog from licking any irritants off. Here is the "pet friendly" deicer for driveways and sidewalks that I recommend: **Paw Safe De-Icer >>**

3. Use a Paw Balm Before & After Walks

Think of paw balm like chapstick for your dog's feet.
Before a walk, it forms a protective barrier.
After a walk, it moisturizes and heals.
Here is the one I recommend: **Paw Balm >>**



4. Try Dog Booties (Yes, Even If They Do the Funny Walk)

Booties aren't just cute - they're super protective.
They keep out snow, ice, salt, and cold.
Pro tips:

- Start with short, fun practice inside with treats.
- Choose a set with velcro straps to keep them secure.
- Don't give up if your dog walks like a dancing camel for the first 30 seconds, it gets better!
- Here are the booties I recommend: **Paw Protectors >>**

5. Stick to Cleared Paths When You Can

Deep snow = more paw exposure.
Plowed or shoveled sidewalks reduce ice buildup and irritation.

6. Keep Nails Trimmed

Long nails make it harder for dogs to keep their grip on slippery surfaces.
Trimmed nails = better traction.

7. Watch for Warning Signs

Call your vet if you notice:

- Cracks or bleeding
- Limping after being outside
- Excessive licking of the feet
- Dry, flaky skin between pads

A little paw TLC now can prevent bigger problems later.

Bonus: Make a "Warm Welcome Home" Routine

Right when you come inside:

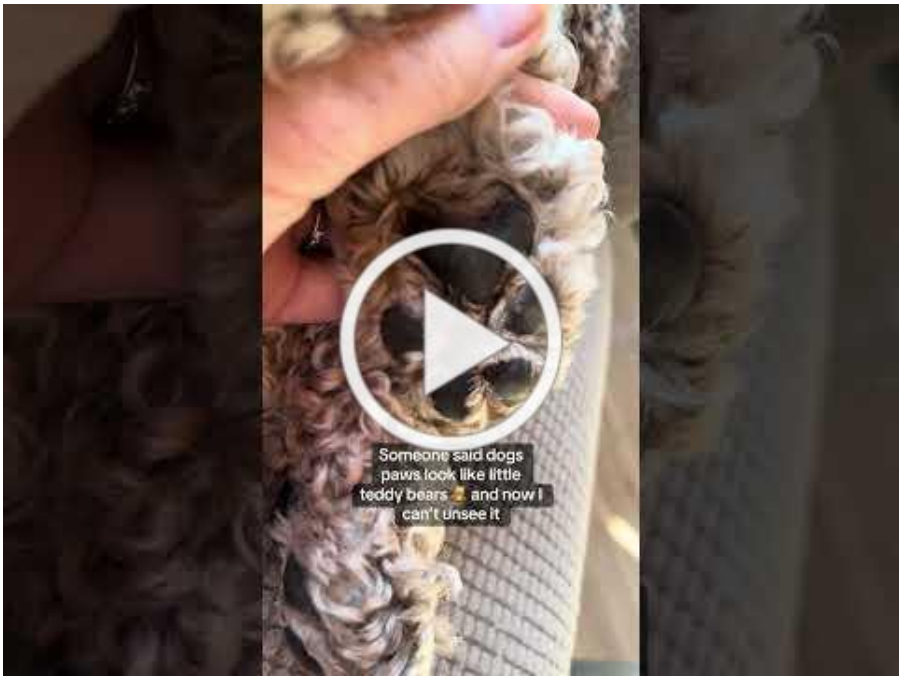
1. Dry paws
2. Check between toes
3. Apply balm if needed
4. Reward with a treat or gentle snuggle

A consistent routine helps your dog feel calm and cooperative about winter care.



Final Thoughts

Our dogs love winter, we just have to help them enjoy it safely. A few simple habits can keep their paws soft, healthy, and ready for all the snowy adventures ahead.
Stay warm out there,
Giene



Giene Keyes
Moon Dog Training

Giene Keyes is the owner of Moon Dog Training, where she helps dogs and their people build better lives together. With over 30 years of experience, she specializes in manners and behavior challenges, working with families, vets, shelters, and rescues across Southern Wisconsin. Giene is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer, an AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, Licensed 4-H Dog Show Judge and a published author. She also raises and shows Portuguese Water Dogs and Lagotti Romagnoli. She loves showing just how clever and capable our dogs (and even chickens and pigs!) can be.

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