



TOPLINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

Editor: Susan Quinn

Email: quinndixie@gmail.com, Ph. (586) 532-0725

Officers 2026

President: Sue Quinn
Vice Pres.: Beth Santure
Secretary: Sue Procter
Treasurer: John Schauer

Inside this issue:

Cover Story pg 1
Next Meeting Info pg 2
2026 Calendar & Club News Pg 5
TCM Health Clinic pg 6

How Cold Is Too Cold for Dogs?

Despite their fur coats, dogs are susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite when the temperature drops.

By Jennifer Coates, DVM. Reviewed by Hannah Hart, DVM Updated Oct. 13, 2025

Yes, your dog has a fur coat—but when winter temperatures dip, it may not be enough to keep them warm outdoors. Find out how cold is too cold for dogs, how to tell when your dog is cold, and what you can do to help keep them warm.

Do Dogs Get Cold?

Despite the cold temperatures and piles of snow (or maybe because of them!), many dogs are enthusiastic about outside adventures in the winter. This can mislead pet parents into believing that dogs don't get cold, or at least that they are much less vulnerable to the cold than people are.

But cold weather can create significant health problems for dogs, including [frostbite](#) and [hypothermia](#).

How Cold Is Too Cold for Dogs?

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to the question of what temperature is too cold for dogs. Just as you might feel perfectly comfortable in 50-degree weather when the sun is out but feel unpleasantly cold at the same temperature when it's windy and raining, many variables affect how your dog experiences different temperatures.

Environmental Variables

Wind chill: Wind increases the rate at which heat is lost from your dog's body as it penetrates their coat. For cold, windy days, a wind-resistant [dog coat](#) can help prevent your dog from getting too cold.



Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

LUNCH MEETING

**Sunday, February 15, 2026
at Noon**

**At
Karl's Cabin
6005 Goffredson Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-359-6591**

BUSINESS MEETING– Immediately following Lunch

If you wish to discuss a matter, have your information ready.

Committees, be ready with your reports. This will help keep time to a minimum



RSVP

to the Yahoo Group by February 13 th or quinndixie@gmail.com

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Moisture: Wet or damp fur doesn't insulate as well as dry fur, and evaporation removes heat from the body. Any kind of moisture can make your dog feel colder. After you bathe your dog or if they've been out in the snow or rain, ensure that you thoroughly dry their coat with dog towels or a dog blow dryer.

- **Cloud cover:** A clear, cloudless day will help your dog stay warmer in cold weather because the heat from the sun warms your dog.

Individual Variables

- **Size:** Small dogs proportionally lose more heat through their skin than big dogs.
- **Weight:** Body fat helps insulate dogs from winter weather. A heavier dog will therefore be able to stay warmer than a skinnier dog.

Coat type: Dogs who have an extremely dense undercoat in addition to an outer coat (Alaskan Malamutes and Pomeranians, for example) enjoy the most protection from the cold. Single-coated dogs, such as the Whippet, only have an outer coat and get cold easily. It is important to remember that long hair doesn't necessarily keep dogs warm.

- **Age and health:** Dogs who are very young, very old, or sick require greater protection from the cold, because they cannot regulate their body temperatures as well as dogs in their prime.
- **Physical exertion:** Movement generates body heat, so if your dog is highly active, they will stay warmer in lower temperatures.
- **Acclimation:** Dogs who live in colder climates and routinely spend time outside can deal with the cold better than dogs from warmer climates. Veterinarians can still give general advice to dog owners as to when low temperatures become dangerous.
- **At 45 degrees Fahrenheit:** Dogs who are especially vulnerable to the cold (small, thin-coated, young, old, or sick dogs, for example) can feel uncomfortably chilled.
- **At 32 degrees Fahrenheit:** Most dogs begin to be at risk for cold-related health problems, such as hypothermia and frostbite.
- **At 20 degrees Fahrenheit:** Even the most cold-tolerant dogs should be closely monitored when outside.

How Cold Is Too Cold To Walk a Dog?

While activities such as walking generate some body heat, there comes a point where it is simply too cold to spend much time outside. When temperatures fall below freezing, start paying close attention to your dog's behavior and cut walks short if they start acting like they're cold.

Once temperatures reach 20 degrees Fahrenheit, hypothermia and frostbite can occur quickly, so it's best to limit walks to 10 minutes or less—just enough time to take care of business. Schedule more indoor exercise and play to prevent boredom.

How Do I Know if My Dog Is Cold?

Many signs that a dog is getting too cold are easy to recognize because they are similar to what people experience when they get cold. When in doubt, it's always best to head inside and warm up.

Behavioral indicators: If you observe changes in your dog's behavior, such as whining, slowing down, seeking warm spots, acting anxious, or holding up paws, they are likely getting cold.

- **Physical indicators:** Shivering is a fairly reliable sign your dog is too cold, but it actually can disappear as hypothermia worsens. Pale skin and extremities that are cold to the touch can be a sign of frostbite, so don't wait until these have appeared to warm up your dog. If you need to warm your dog quickly, bring them inside a heated building or car and, if possible, wrap them with blankets or towels that have been heated using a clothes dryer or radiator. Hot packs or bottles filled with hot water (separated from your dog's skin by a couple of layers of fabric) can speed up the rewarming process.

If you think your dog could have hypothermia or frostbite, bring them to a veterinarian immediately.

How To Keep Your Dog Warm in Winter

The easiest way to ensure that your dog stays warm during winter is to limit their time outdoors. But when nature (or adventure) calls, there are several ways to keep your dog out of harm's way.

Dog boots will protect your dog's feet from the cold, sharp ice, the chemicals in ice melt, as well as those annoying balls of snow that collect between and around paw pads.

A warm dog sweater is good for chilly days, but a wind- and water-resistant dog coat provides the most protection from extreme weather.

Dogs are happiest and safest when they're inside with their people, but a heated and insulated dog house can provide temporary shelter outdoors.

FAQs About How Cold Is Too Cold for Dogs

How do I know if my dog has hypothermia?

Some of the first signs that a dog is becoming hypothermic are shivering; cool body surfaces; confusion; sluggishness; and stiff, uncoordinated movements. Once hypothermia progresses to a critical stage, shivering will stop. When in doubt, see a veterinarian immediately.

What dog can withstand the coldest temperature?

Dogs' ability to withstand cold temperatures varies, but some of the best dog breeds for cold weather include Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Saint Bernards, American Eskimo Dogs, and Great Pyrenees.

www.chewy.com

We're on the Web!
www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org

CLUB NEWS:



The Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan donated to the AKC Humane Fund. The AKC Humane Fund promotes the well-being of animals and responsible pet ownership.

2026 MSCM AGILITY TRIALS

The MSCM Agility Trials are July 24, 25, & 26, 2026. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Lynn B, if you are available to help out. There are easy jobs & lots of fun watching the dogs run!

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

Editor-Susan Quinn

2026 Calendar of Important Events

February 15 Sunday - General Meeting @ Noon

Karl's Cabin, 6005 Gotfredson Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170

April 29 Wednesday —ZOOM General Meeting 7pm

June 6 Saturday—General Meeting Time TBA

Ann Arbor Dog Training Club, Whitmore Lake, MI

July 24,25,26 MSCM Agility Trials

All Dogs Can, 2040 N. Lapeer Road, Lapeer, MI 48446

August 19 Wednesday — ZOOM General Meeting 7 pm

September 25 Friday—MSCM Specialty

Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 11 Sunday —General Meeting @ Noon

Valiant Restaurant, 1120 S. Main St, Chelsea, MI

December 5 Saturday —General Meeting 4pm

MSCM Meeting/Xmas Party , Coral Gables, East Lansing, MI

2026

March 7-8 O/R
St Joe Valley AC
Buchanan, MI

March 20-22 O/R
Companion DTC
Flint, MI

March 26-29 Breed
Jaxon, Macomb KC
Mason, MI

March 27-29 O/R
Kalamazoo KC
Kalamazoo, MI

April 4-5 Rally
AADTC
Whitmore Lake, MI

April 17-19 O/R
Obed TC Lansing
Lansing, MI

April 24 O/R
Siberian Husky Club
Corunna, MI

April 25-26 Breed
Progressive DC
Corunna, MI

SHOW CALENDAR

Agility 2026

Feb 27-March 1
Sportsmen's DTC
Lapeer, MI

March 6-8
Oakland Cty KC
Lapeer, MI

March 12-15
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

March 19-22
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

March 26-29
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

April 2-5
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

April 10-12
Siberian Husky
Lapeer, MI

April 16-19
Midland MI KC
Midland, MI

April 24-26
AADTC
Whitmore Lake, MI

Terrier Club of Michigan

19th Annual All-Breed Health Clinic

Saturday, March 28, 2026 ~ 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

For information visit www.terrierclubofmi.org

With the Jaxon and Macomb Kennel Club Spring Cluster
Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854

CAER Eye Exams - Andras M Komaromy, DrMedVet, PhD, DACVO, DECVO - \$50/
dog OFA Heart Certification – Dr. Alissa Pinkos - \$70/dog

OFA Echo - Dr. Alissa Pinkos - \$310/dog (MUST pre-register.)

(Note - A total of 10 registrations must be received for the Vet to conduct the
Echo exams. If we do not receive 10 registrations, deposits for these tests will be refund-
ed.) OFA Patellar Exam – Judi Fleischaker, MS, DVM - \$40/dog

Heartworm Test – Judi Fleischaker, MS, DVM - \$30/dog

AVID Microchips - Judi Fleischaker, MS, DVM - \$30/dog

OFA applications for the Heart, & Patellar may be downloaded to save time at the Clinic Go to:
(<http://www.offa.org/apps.html>) CAER/Eyes Also available at clinic

NOTE: Please bring your dog's AKC registration with Sire & Dams numbers, and proof of tat-
too or microchip number. Information required on form to register with OFA.

For information contact Terry Worful (313) 475-5526 or Bobbie Green (313) 319-0728

Email: terrierclubmi@yahoo.com

One check for all deposits (or payment in full), payable to TCM,
MAIL TO: TCM Health Clinic, c/o Bobbie Green
32651 Somerset St., Westland, MI 48186

Pre-registration Advised for all Exams and Due by: March 21, 2026

\$10 per health test, non-refundable deposit ensures your time for the express lane for testing.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

_____ Email address: _____

Breeds: _____ Total No. of dogs _____

of Eye Tests _____ # of Heart Tests _____ # of Echo Tests _____

of Patellar Exams _____ # of Heartworm Tests _____ # of Microchips _____

Total tests _____ @ \$10.00 ea. = _____ Preferred appointment time by hour _____