

# PROTECT Those PAWS!



Your dog's feet are as important as yours! Dogs that are kept inside tend to have very tender pads that cannot withstand the heat produced by the concrete or asphalt on a hot summer day. They are also sensitive to extremely cold weather and find it uncomfortable to plow through mud, snow or ice in the winter time. Outside dogs have tougher pads, but if they are consistently kept on decking or concrete of some type they will wear their pads thin and they too will have a problem with hot/cold temperatures when they walk.

If you enjoy taking your dog out for a walk in the summer then just make sure you do so early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the sun has gone down. The only way that dog's have to cool off is through panting and by releasing heat through their feet, so it is very important to keep them off of the hot sidewalk. Keep in mind that you would not like to walk down the sidewalk barefoot on a hot day and neither does your pet!

Another option is to purchase dog boots, which are designed to prevent burning pads and cuts that can be caused by rocks, metal objects, brush, foxtails, burrs, thorns, broken glass, and other abrasive surfaces. Dog boots can also help protect your dog's feet from allergens and burning cigarettes. They can help eliminate licking of irritated paws and they lend comfort to pets with hip dysplasia during walks and sporting activities.

In addition to protecting your pet, dog boots also provide benefits to you the dog owner. Dog boots can be used indoors to protect hardwood floors and leather upholstery from rips and tears. They can also help prevent dogs from slipping on wet surfaces as well as slick hardwood/tile floors. Outdoors, they help protect boat seats and swimming pool liners from being destroyed by your dog's nails.

Dog boots come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. It is important to remember to keep your dog's toenails trimmed so that they do not puncture the boots. Dog boots can be purchased from a variety of pet supply stores and/or online. For more information, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609.

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Animal Care & Control Program  
**(800) 472-5609**

