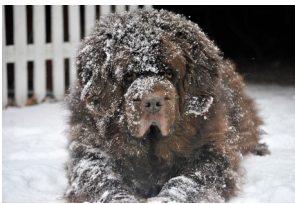# December Tips

Pet-safe Ice Melter

Ice melters are frequently used to keep sidewalks and driveways safe for walking, but did you know you may be putting your dog at risk?

Exposing dogs to salt and salt-based ice melt products can mean an unhealthy winter and unplanned trips to the vet's office or animal hospital. The problem is that when dogs are let out, they frolic and eat the snow. Many ice melt products sit on the surface of the ice. Dogs may either ingest these ice melt pellets or they get frozen into their paws. Later, when they are inside, the ice melts and dogs begin to lick their paws. The salt can heat up as high as 175 degrees and not only burn their skin but their mouth and digestive system.

Jay-Mar has pet-safe ice melters that will keep your paved surfaces clear and your pet safe.

Winter Wild Bird Care

Water is vital for wild birds all year long. Cold weather in northern climates brings a special challenge to survival because natural water sources are often frozen. Providing ice-free water for drinking and feather maintenance can be life-saving for birds. Water sources may be kept ice-free by an immersible electric heater that goes right into the birdbath water. Baths with built-in heaters are also available. Almost all birdbath heating systems are thermostatically controlled to not overheat, or underheat. Jay-Mar has several styles available.

Winter is a crucial time for the birds that remain in our area. They spend their time facing the bitter cold and snow and ice. There are no insects to eat and the natural seeds are covered with snow; the berries and apples are gone. Birds need enough food to maintain their body temperatures and must search for food from sun up to dusk.

Jay-Mar blends several fresh bird seed mixes, right here in Plover to keep the birds healthy and happy all winter long. Ask us which blend will attract the birds you want.

Making Your Home The Best Place On Earth!