

Wise Winter WEATHER TIPS

— for Your Family Yard —

When Old Man Winter comes calling, homeowners need to keep everyone in the family – including your pets – safe. Follow these wise winter weather tips from the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) and TurfMutt.

Bring Pets Inside

Dogs and cats should be kept inside during cold weather months. Wipe their paws and bellies after they've been outside, and check for ice accumulation between paw pads. If you're using a de-icing agent, remove that salt and other agents, too.

Ventilate Portable Generators

If a winter storm knocks out your power, a generator can be a life-saver if used properly. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

Pick Up Debris

Before it snows, remove debris and household items from your family yard. Doormats, hoses, toys and sticks can hide under a layer of snow that could harm your snowthrower, family or pets.

Clear a Path

Your snowthrower is a convenient way to clear your driveway and sidewalks. It also gives your pet a path to their bathroom area.

Trim Trees Carefully

When using a chainsaw, stand with your weight on both feet, adjust your stance so you are angled away from the blade and hold the chainsaw with both hands.

Watch Where You Throw

Keep kids and pets away from the equipment, and never put your hand in the chute or auger to clear a blockage. Turn the machine off and always use a clean-out tool.