

Snow Fun for Dogs

Dogs have fun playing in the snow.

Some dogs relish a romp in the snow. They gallop and grin, run with their heads under the snow, stopping only to take a quick roll. Other dogs hate getting cold and wet and refuse to step outside if the ground is white. Dogs that are older or have health issues might not be able to get out for their exercise when the weather is bad.

When you do go outside during late autumn and early winter, remember to watch for signs that your dog is getting cold. Also provide fresh water after you're done playing, and keep in mind that running in the snow is a lot more exercise than just taking a walk.

If you are lucky enough to have some snow on the ground with moderate temperatures and Fido wants to play snow dog, here are some ways to get out and enjoy it.

Snowball relay. This is a quick way to wear out your throwing arm and give your dog a quick romp. Make a pile of snowballs. With your dog next to you, throw one snowball one way and watch your dog give chase, when he comes running back to you, throw a snowball the other way and watch him romp toward it. Repeat until you are pooped!

Keep away. For this game, you need a friend to help. Toss snowballs between you while encouraging your dog to try to get them. Remember to reward him by letting him get some of the snowballs.

Snow soccer. This is the same as indoor soccer, but more fun in the snow.

Tunnel fun. When I dig tunnels in the snow, Molly loves to dig alongside of me. When the tunnel is done, she gets to practice agility by running through them.