

## Jeff Smith - It's Cold Outside for Our Furry Friends

Written by Jeff Smith, State Senator District 31  
Wednesday, 18 December 2019 10:47

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***The Senator talks about looking out for our vulnerable furry friends. He works with a constituent to learn about unattended tethering, and introduces legislation to prohibit this harmful practice.***

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BRUNSWICK, WI - While it's not officially here yet, the winter season has come to western Wisconsin. Snow has fallen and temperatures have dropped close to zero. During these winter months, my family's two dogs enjoy exploring the outdoors. But, as the days get even colder, you'll find the dogs spending more time inside near the wood burning stove in our family room.

Not all animals find winter so enjoyable, especially if they're unable to warm up indoors. I recently learned the dangers for animals when kept outside for extensive periods of time. Even their furry coats aren't enough to keep them warm as their body temperatures drop and their paws freeze.

As a legislator, I've come to learn the value of an advocate's voice, while meeting community members and activists, and hearing their stories. These conversations are important reminders to look out for those who are vulnerable, including our furry friends who can't speak for themselves. Our voices have power – we must speak up to take care of others.

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