



From Lost Dogs of the Finger Lakes



With the spring thaws we would like to remind pet owners to be **mindful of thawing ice** over water sources in their area. With the abundant snow cover this year, the temperature under the snow is much warmer and the ice is becoming thinner and may not be apparent. Please be safe and keep your water loving pups leashed near ice covered water. Dogs that are allowed to roam, will venture onto thin ice to seek out open water which places them at high risk of falling through. They don't know when it becomes unsafe and if they've been walking on the ice they will continue to do so as it thaws.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful Spring!

WHEN IS ICE SAFE? *From Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, written by T. Smalley and K. Elverum, 2010*

There really is no sure answer. In fact, ice is probably never 100 percent safe. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.



SOME COLD FACTS ABOUT ICE - New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not. Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

ICE FORMED OVER FLOWING WATER AND CURRENTS IS OFTEN DANGEROUS - This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current. **The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.** The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.