

doggy daycare and spa

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March 2007 Newsletter

Yippee! It's finally March and Spring is right around the corner! With the warm weather comes more fun time spent outside for our furry friends. We can hardly wait!

We have very limited space left for Boarding during Spring Break (the last part of March and first week of April). If you know that you will be away and have not yet booked your dog's reservation, please do so immediately. In addition to boarding during that time, we will be very limited in our ability to accommodate Daycare "call-ins." We highly recommend scheduling daycare appointments for that week as far in advance as possible.

How to Prevent a Grooming Horror Story

We have all heard it before... someone drops their dog off at the groomer for a bath and the dog comes out bald! With "shave-down" season right around the corner, here are a few tips to make sure "Fido" stays Fluffy:

1. Be Specific. Tell your groomer exactly how you want your dog to look. Give a finished length or the measured amount you would like taken off for dogs who get hair cut off. Ask to see a ruler!
2. Meet with your Groomer in person. When you talk to your Groomer face to face about your likes and dislikes as well as any concerns, you are more likely to get results you are expecting.
3. Be careful with the words you choose to describe your dog's haircut. The word "short" can mean different lengths to different people. Once again, get out a ruler.
 - a. Shave-down: this is a VERY short cut with little hair length left all over the body. This is never recommended for double coated breeds.
 - b. Trim: this often consists of removing longer hair that collects dirt, leaves, water and other debris. Many double coated dogs or coats with feathering get a "trim" because it keeps them neat in appearance.
4. Shaving down your long hair, double coated dog **will not** keep them cooler in the summer. Their coat acts as insulation (similar to that in our homes) and protects their body and skin from the sun and heat as well as the cold in the winter. Short coated dogs such as labs, shepherds, and pointers should also never be shaved. Repeated shaving of double coated dogs will rid your dog's coat of their guard hairs leaving an all over "fuzzy" appearance.
5. Dogs with "hair" that grows (ie. ShihTzus, Schnauzers, Cockers, Lhasos, Setters etc) do get their hair cut and shaved.
6. If your dog has itchy skin, let your groomer know. We offer a variety of medicated shampoos and moisturizing treatments for different coat and skin types.
7. If you have questions about the proper grooming of your dog, please see our Spa Specialists Racheal Darge and Lindsay Fisher.

We hate to sound like a broken record, but here are some of our regular reminders:

Please remember to provide us with a copy of your dog's updated vaccinations. For your reference, all dogs attending daycare must be current on the following vaccinations:

- DHLPP...specifically this combination vaccine consists of Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis (which may be given separately), Parvo and Parainfluenza.
- Rabies
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough vaccine)

In addition to these vaccines, all dogs must be current on their annual heartworm and fecal tests. And don't forget, everyone must be on **YEAR ROUND** flea and heartworm preventative. This is for your pet's protection. Dogs can pick up fleas any time of year, not just in warm weather months. Fleas can thrive indoors and on other animals with which your dog may come in contact. If we discover that your pet has fleas while at daycare, he/she will be treated immediately and not able to return without documentation from your veterinarian that they are on prescribed preventative.

Our photo wall in the Reception Area is growing, but we still don't have nearly enough faces looking at us! If your pup's mug is missing, won't you please bring in a framed photo for us to proudly display?

It is for your dog's safety that he/she wear a snap on collar to daycare. If a situation were to arise where one dog's mouth got caught on another dog's collar, we would be able to remove the collar right away if it were a snap on. A buckle collar is much more difficult (next to impossible when you are dealing with two panicked dogs.) We have learned this from experience. Please help us in maintaining the safest environment possible by making sure that your dog complies with our dress code.

If you have any extra fleecy type blankets (one layer, no polyfill please) that you don't want or need, we sure could use some for nap time at Daycare (and extra bedding for Boarders who forget to pack theirs). We can also always use towels for our Spa and yummy treats for going home time!

Just for Fun...

Did you know that dogs have 20-40 times as many olfactory receptor cells as we do, and that the part of the brain devoted to smells (the olfactory lobe) is four times larger than a human's?

Did you know that dogs "sweat" not only by panting, but also through the pads of their feet? That is why it is important to keep the fur around their feet trimmed, and if a dog comes down with heat exhaustion you need to soak their feet in cool water.

Did you know that brushing your dog's teeth and maintaining good oral hygiene can add up to 4 years to their life?

Did you know that the recommended amount of food per day listed on most dog food bags is more than what your dog needs to be fed? The dog food companies want you to go through more so you have to buy more!

All of our past newsletters are available online at:

www.doggydaycareandspa.com