

doggy daycare and spa

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May 2007 Newsletter

Congratulations Racheal!

Our Master Spa Specialist, Racheal Darge, will become Racheal Hrydziusko (this is not a misspelling☺) on July 7, 2007. Racheal will be taking off the first two weeks of July for wedding preparation and recovery. Because of this, any dogs who may need haircuts will need to be scheduled prior to or after this time. We will, however, be able to provide bathing and nail trim services. Racheal began apprenticing Melanie Wyman in April and Melanie will be ready to perform bathing and nail trim services solo by July. Please be sure to schedule any appointments as far in advance as possible.

With the Spring Season in full swing, Spa appointments are filling up fast. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to squeeze in Daycare Dogs and Boarding Dogs without notice. You will want to plan on scheduling your dog's bath or groom at least one week in advance. If you get your dog groomed on a regular schedule, please see one of our team members regarding a standing Spa Appointment. That way we will always be sure to have time to complete your pet before pick up.

Important Health Information Regarding Heat Stroke and Your Pet

With summer right around the corner, we would like to provide you with the following information regarding Hyperthermia (Heat Stroke).

1. The most common cause of Heat Stroke in dogs is from leaving them in a parked vehicle. A vehicle's temperature can rise to 50% warmer than the outside temperature in a matter of minutes. PLEASE do not ever leave your dog in a parked vehicle on a warm day. If it is 60 degrees and sunny, your car will reach 100 degrees before you know it. Other causes include lack of appropriate shelter outdoors (dogs need shade), excessive exercise in hot/humid conditions, underlying ailments (heart and lung disease), and breed dispositions including short nosed breeds (such as bulldogs, boxers, pugs) and heavily coated dogs (such as chows, huskies, and collies) and dark colored dogs.
2. Signs of Heat Stroke include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, body temperature of 104 degrees or higher, collapse, bloody diarrhea or vomit, increased heart rate, excessively red mucous membranes (gums and tongue), seizures and stupor.
3. Heat Stroke should be treated immediately! Get your dog out of direct heat, check for shock, take your pet's temperature, get them in cool water, place cool water soaked towels on their neck, abdomen, feet and chest, and rub alcohol on the pads of their feet. Get their body temperature down and take them to a veterinarian IMMEDIATELY!!!! Hyperthermia/Heat Stroke can be fatal and signs of fatality may not show up right away.

A Tip from the Spa

At Doggy Daycare and Spa, we recommend the Shedless Program as opposed to shaving down a dog's coat for the following reasons:

1. Contrary to popular belief, shaving a dog's coat does not keep him or her cooler. A dog's fur acts as insulation protecting them from the heat of the summer. Think of it in terms of the insulation in a house...insulation keeps a home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. A dog's fur acts the same way.
2. Shaving a dog's coat can eventually damage the integrity of a dog's fur. Guard hair will be replaced by fluffy undercoat creating an "unnatural" look.
3. For light coated breeds, shaving the coat can actually make them more prone to sunburn since their skin is not as protected from the sun's harmful rays.
4. Of course, certain breeds do get their hair clipped, such as cockers, schnauzers, and shitzus. If you are unsure of what the proper grooming is for your dog's breed, please feel free to ask!

The "Shed-Less" program consists of a grooming scheduled every 4 weeks and includes a bath with our special shampoo and conditioner designed to remove loose and dead fur, blow drying with our powerful forced air dryers (we NEVER use cage dryers), and a very thorough brushing using state of the art shedding tools. Of course, your dog's nails will be clipped and their ears cleaned out. We can also take care of any trim work that needs to be done. Please remember that shedding of certain breeds can never be totally eliminated, however, with proper grooming, it certainly can be managed. At Doggy Daycare and Spa, we believe that a well groomed dog is a happier and healthier dog.

Pet Food Scare!

With the recent pet food recall, we felt compelled to provide you with information regarding what to look for in commercial dog food:

1. Where do the ingredients come from and where is the food produced?
2. What grade ingredients are used... are they "human" grade? (meaning that the production facility is regularly inspected by the USDA).
3. Are the meats used steroid and hormone free?
4. What is the order of the ingredients? The first ingredient listed is what the food mostly contains.
5. Does the food include whole grains and fresh whole fruits and vegetables?
6. Look for natural preservatives.
7. Does it include quality, single source fats clearly named? (chicken fat, lamb fat, etc.)
8. Does it include chelated minerals? (these are easier absorbed by the body)
9. Steer clear of food listing "meat byproducts" and "meat meal" in the ingredients.

The June 2007 issue of **The Bark** magazine includes in-depth articles related to the recent recall, including interviews with Pet Nutrition Authorities Donald Strombeck DVM and Ann Martin. We can only hope that this recent scare will help Pet Parents make wiser decisions regarding what they feed their furry children as well as force stricter regulations regarding Pet Food Manufacturing.

Don't forget to make your dog's boarding reservations for any time this summer as far in advance as possible. We fill up quick over holidays (Memorial Day, Father's Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day). We also fill up most weekends during the warm weather months. We want to make sure we have room for our Regulars!