

doggy daycare and spa

5325 W. Mt. Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 • (517) 333-WOOF • fax (517) 322-3002

www.doggydaycareandspa.com • info@doggydaycareandspa.com



May 2008 Newsletter

Dog Friendly Dining

Gilbert and Blake's on Okemos Road in Okemos offers pet friendly patio dining for those who wish to dine with their four legged children! Gilbert and Blake's is most noted for their wonderful seafood entrees, but have many other options available as well. Take your pet with you for your next meal out and tell your server you heard about Gilbert and Blakes' Pet Friendly Patio at Doggy Daycare and Spa and receive 10% off your meal.

Standing Spa Appointments Are Available!

Do you always forget to remember to schedule your dog's Spa Appointment until the last minute? We can help with that. Schedule your dog for a Standing Spa Appointment, and he/she will be all clean and shiny after Daycare automatically! We can even print you off a list of the scheduled days so you can put them in your calendar, and you won't ever have to worry about whether or not we have room to fit your dog in again! (This is especially handy for those big and hairy ones ☺). If you don't wish to have your dog on a Standing Spa Reservation, please remember that we do usually schedule out at least one week in advance for Spa Appointments. We recommend, for most breeds, regular professional grooming every 4-6 weeks. Or you can always ask Racheal about a custom-fit spa schedule for your pet's unique grooming needs.

Reminders:

- Our hours are Mondays-Fridays from 7am – 7pm, Saturdays from 7am -12noon & 4pm-7pm, and Sundays from 7am-4pm. It is important that dogs arrive no later than 9:30am for Daycare and by 12noon for Boarding, but can always be dropped off as early as 7am. We do hold training classes in the evenings and on Sundays, so late pickups can not only be difficult for our Staff, but distracting for our Training Class Students. If you have any questions regarding our drop off and pick up times and policies, please see Janice for more information.
- Heartworm season is in full swing now that the warm weather has finally arrived! If you haven't already had your dog's annual heartworm test performed, please do so as soon as possible. Dogs contract heartworm from being bitten by mosquitoes, and while it is now treatable, the treatment is not pleasant for either parent or pet. So do both of you a favor and keep your dog on year round heartworm preventative (plus we require it for Daycare participation!)
- If your dog is scheduled for Daycare, Boarding, and/or Spa services and you do need to cancel, please be sure to call, email, or let us know in person. It is important that we have an accurate count of attendees for each day to ensure proper staffing and to allow us to call those who may be on our cancellation list. Spa appointments who no show will be charged a \$25 fee to their account. Daycare and Boarding dogs who no show with no call will be charged against their account or Daycare Package.

Important Information for all of our Daycare Parents!

As many of you have noticed, our computer system now prompts us with reminders for updated vaccines for your dogs. It is important for the health and safety of all dogs attending daycare that everyone be current on all of their vaccines, specifically rabies, DHLPP (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvo, and parainfluenza) as well as the Bordetella vaccine (also referred to as the kennel cough or intranasal vaccine). We do also require that everyone be current on heartworm and fecal testing. It may be in your pet’s best interest to even have bi-yearly fecal testing conducted.

Daycare for dogs is very similar to sending your child to daycare and/or school. While dogs and children benefit from the exercise and socialization provided, they may also be exposed to various germs, viruses and parasites when playing with others. We have provided for you in this newsletter a list of some of our most “popular” including the symptoms and necessary actions that need to be taken.

1. **Fleas**... fleas can be picked up by our dogs outside, at friends homes, at the dog park, and from other animals. We require that all Daycare participants be on year round flea preventative. Just because your dog is itching does not mean that they have fleas. Fleas like to migrate into warm, moist areas. A good way to give your dog the once over (even on thick coated dogs) is to inspect them while lying on their backs. Check in their arm and leg pits, around genitalia, and around ears. Fleas will leave “black dirt” on your pet that is actually dried blood and will turn red when wet. If you discover fleas on your pet, please do not bring him/her to Daycare until he/she is completely rid of them. Many flea products are guaranteed. Call your Veterinarian and seek the appropriate control method for your dog. Also, be sure to treat your dog’s bedding and favorite hang out spots in the home and yard. If you find that you have an unmanageable infestation, please consult a professional pest control company.
2. **Tapeworm**... Tapeworm is an intestinal parasite that dog’s can acquire from eating a flea. Tapeworm is not transmissible from dog to dog, but needs to be treated upon discovery. Tapeworms are flat, rice-like parasites that are found in the stool. If you suspect that your dog has tapeworm, please take a stool sample to your Veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment.
3. **Other Intestinal Parasites**... many other intestinal parasites can be transferred from dog to dog by contact with stool and/or infected soil. If you suspect that your dog may be infected with any type of intestinal parasite, please take a stool sample to your Veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment. Do not bring him/her to Daycare until proof of clean stool can be provided.
4. **Kennel Cough**... Kennel Cough is the dog version of our respiratory flu. It may include watery eyes, runny nose, sneezing along with a pronounced cough that sounds similar to a goose honking. While all dogs who come to Daycare must be vaccinated against Kennel Cough, the vaccine itself is about 85% effective, similar to a flu vaccine for us. If your dog is showing any symptoms of kennel cough, please do not bring him/her to Daycare. Dogs who enter our building showing any symptoms of kennel cough will not be able to enter the playgroup. Any dogs who show symptoms while already at Daycare must be picked up by their doggy parent and not return until all symptoms subside for at least one week.
5. **Giardia**... Giardia is the least common ailment that we come across, but is a serious one none-the-less. Giardia are protozoa that live in the small intestine. Dogs become infected by eating the cyst form of the parasite... this can be from being exposed to infected water sources or infected feces of another animal (domestic or wild). The usual symptom of Giardia is diarrhea, which can be acute, intermittent, or chronic. The stool may also be abnormal, pale, have a foul odor, and appear greasy. Infected dogs usually will not lose their appetite, but may lose weight because Giardia can prevent proper absorption of nutrients and interferes with digestion. Giardia may be

transmissible to humans. If you suspect your dog may have Giardia, please do not bring him/her to Daycare and consult your Veterinarian immediately.