

doggy daycare and spa

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May 2010 Newsletter

We're Ticked!

For years, in Mid-Michigan, we have not had to worry much about ticks on our dogs. However, that is now changing. As the deer populations continue to grow and move south, so are the deer ticks that they carry. At Doggy Daycare and Spa, we have already found ticks on a few dogs who haven't even left the area.

The following information is to help you know how to deal with these pesky parasites. It may be wise to keep it for future referral should you find a tick on your pet.

- Ticks can spread tick borne diseases such as Lyme Disease, Ehrlichia, and Rocky Mountain Fever.
- The most common times of the year to find ticks on your dog are in the spring and fall.
- Ticks are usually found in tall grasses and wooded areas. They hang out on tall grass or branches to wait for an animal to pass and then latch onto it, burrowing their head into the animal's flesh.
- Ticks can live for over 2 years without a meal.
- Ticks that are unattached to the skin are easily removed with tweezers or hemostats. They can then be killed by submerging them in rubbing alcohol.
- However, a tick whose head is buried in the skin should not be pulled loose because the head may become detached and remain burrowed in your pets skin. Before removing the tick, apply nail polish remover or rubbing alcohol directly to the tick with a saturated cotton swab or cotton ball. The tick will begin to back out in less than a minute. You can then grasp the tick firmly with tweezers and lift it off. Dispose of it by submerging it in rubbing alcohol and flushing it down the toilet.
- If a tick's head or mouth parts are left behind once the tick body has been removed, most dogs will exhibit redness or swelling at the bite site. This will usually clear up in a few days; however, if it persists, please contact your Veterinarian.
- Any time your dog is in an area where ticks may live (wooded areas, fields, dog parks, etc), you should check your pet from head to tail for any of these parasites. Ticks are not finicky about where on the animal they feed. They can be found on ears, heads, necks, bodies, feet, or legs; but they are most commonly found on the ears and between the toes.
- Once a tick has latched itself onto a host, it will usually feed until engorged and will not seek a second animal (dog or human).
- Preventatives that can help protect your pet from ticks include: Frontline Plus, Advantix (**not** Advantage), and Vectra. There are also tick preventative collars available through your Veterinarian. As always, we recommend discussing with your Veterinarian which preventative is best suited to protect your dog. And we always recommend Veterinary prescribed preventatives rather than "over the counter" alternatives.

Ever want to be a “fly on the wall” at Daycare and see what happens while your dog is here playing? Now you can! Simply join us on our Facebook page and you will have access to a variety of videos and photos which show a glimpse into your dog’s “Daycare Experience.” Videos and photos are updated often, so visit us regularly! You will get to see Choir Practice, Nap times, Strange Dog Games, and of course, lots of playing and wrestling. You are also welcome to upload your own photos or videos for others to enjoy. To join us on Facebook, simply search for our page under www.doggydaycareandspa.com or click on our link from our website. We are looking forward to having you join our list of Fans!

News from the Spa

Rachel will be returning to the Spa on Monday, May 10th! Natalie has been doing a great job, and we sure do appreciate everyone’s understanding and patience as she tried to get as many of your dogs in for grooming as possible. Scheduling should become much easier for us from here on out. Racheal will be taking appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Natalie will continue to groom on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. As always, it is better to schedule your pet’s Spa services as far in advance as possible so we can ensure we will be able to get him or her in.

Regular grooming is important for the health and well being of your pet. Professional grooming can rid your dog of that excessive shedding, allow us to exam their skin and coat for changes or any odd lumps or bumps, or even inspect them for ticks! Most pets can benefit from a standing Spa appointment every 4-6-8 weeks, depending on your pets skin and coat. To schedule a standing appointment to the Spa for your dog, please see one of our team members.

Remember, we never charge extra for specialty shampoo and conditioning treatments. We feel that it is important to use the products that are best suited for your pet’s skin and coat. We also won’t give dogs “grooms” that are inappropriate for their breed and coat type. You will never see a shaved down lab walking out of our Spa!

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- We are in need of plastic grocery bags to help us clean up after the dogs. If you have any extra laying around your house, feel free to bring them on over to Doggy Daycare and Spa! We will put them to good use!
 - Flea and Heartworm Season is in full swing! Don’t forget that monthly treatments to prevent these parasites is one of our requirements for Daycare enrollment.
 - Memorial Day is May 31st! If you haven’t scheduled boarding for your dog yet, please do so as soon as possible. We have very limited space left and we want to be sure to have room for our regulars!

