

doggy daycare and spa

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June 2011 Newsletter

Let's go out to the Ball Game!

Join the Doggy Daycare and Spa Team for a little fun at this year's BARK IN THE PARK at Cooley Law School Stadium, Home of the Lansing Lugnuts!

We have a limited number of pre-paid tickets in reserved seating, but we are sure we can get more. If you would like to attend, please see a team member to sign up. Wear your Doggy Daycare and Spa t-shirt to the game and earn a chance to win a cool Doggy Daycare and Spa prize. And of course, feel free to bring your dog!

Here are all the specifics:

What: BARK in the PARK

When: Sunday, June 26, 2011 at 2:05 pm

Cost: FREE (as long as you sign up by Thursday, June 23rd)

Why: Why not? Enjoy a day of fun, baseball, and tail wagging! We would love to have as many "Doggy Daycare and Spa" people there as possible. Please join us!



A special note regarding retractable leashes...

The Retractable Leash was developed years ago to allow tracking dogs to go in front of their handlers and follow a scent. They allowed the dog to forage ahead, but still kept them attached to their human. If the handler wanted the dog back by their side, they could retract the leash and reel the dog back in. A retractable leash was used as a tool for certain circumstances, and was never meant to replace a good, old fashioned leash.

If you currently walk your dog on a retractable leash, please keep the following in mind:

1. Your dog never understands where his/her true boundary is. Sometimes it is 2 ft. away, sometimes 20. Because of this, retractable leashes can intensify issues with pulling.
2. The cord of the retractable leash can be easily tangled around your leg, your dog's leg, your friend's leg, even a stranger's leg, causing serious injury. Many retractable leashes come with a warning that finger amputation can occur.
3. Retractable leashes are difficult to hold onto. You can't simply wrap them around your hand, you must hold onto a handle. Many dogs are able to jerk the handle right out of their human's hand.
4. Tools such as no pull harnesses, Halties, or Gentle Leaders are not as effective when used with a retractable leash.
5. It is next to impossible to walk and control multiple dogs on retractable leashes.

If you are looking for a new leash for your dog, look for a good quality nylon or leather leash. Most leashes come in lengths of 4 and 6 feet with differing widths. Pick a width that is suitable for your dog... for example, you wouldn't get a ¼ inch width for a 100 lb dog just as you wouldn't get a one inch width for a 5 lb dog.

Important Health Information Regarding Heat Stroke and Your Pet

With summer already here in full swing, it makes sense for us to cover a very important topic, hyperthermia (aka heat stroke). The following information is to educate you so you can protect your dog during the dog days of summer.

- 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), breed dispositions including short nosed breeds (such as bulldogs, boxers, pugs), heavily coated breeds (such as chows, huskies, and collies) and dark colored dogs.
 - 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.
 - 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.
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Tips from the Spa

With the hot, humid weather here, we are finding that many dogs are getting those dreaded "hot spots." A hot spot is a warm, painful, swollen patch of skin that can occur anywhere on a dog's body. Hot spots occur rapidly, usually within a couple of hours. They occur most commonly in thick coated breeds when moist, dead hair is trapped next to the skin. Allergies, ear infections, fleas, and poor grooming can make a dog more prone to hot spots.

Hot spots are very painful for dogs and they try to ease the pain with excessive licking which only irritates the spot more. In severe cases, a dog may even need to be sedated for initial treatment.

Regular professional grooming can lessen your dog's chance of getting a hot spot by removing dead hair and excessive undercoat and cleaning your dog's skin and fur. Our Spa Team (Racheal, Natalie, and Claire) can determine the best shampoo and conditioning treatments for your pet's skin and coat, whether it is an oatmeal treatment, a medicated bath, or a coat releasing conditioner. We only use the best professional products on the market and all of our shampoos and conditioners are soap free and hypoallergenic.

To be ensure an appointment, we recommend scheduling your dog's visit to the Spa at least a week in advance, especially if you have a double coated dog or one who gets a haircut. Many dogs can benefit from being on a regular grooming schedule every 4, 6, or 8 weeks, depending on their needs. We can schedule your dog's appointment in the afternoon so he is all fresh and clean when you arrive to pick him up from Daycare. Another benefit of a standing grooming schedule is that you don't have to worry about "forgetting to remember" to schedule your dog's grooming appointment. We will just take care of it automatically! If you are interested in scheduling your dog's Day at the Spa, whether on a standing reservation or not, please see any of our team members.

For past newsletters or to join us on Facebook, go to www.doggydaycareandspa.com.

Don't forget! August is fundraising month, the one time of the year when you can get the much sought after Doggy Daycare and Spa merchandise! More information on our fundraising will be available in July.