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June 2009

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Doggy Day Care News:

--As you might have heard, we opened a new Doggy Day Care location in Lander on June 8. We are excited to work with the new staff and look forward to meeting the new dogs and their parents!

The new location is 2855 US Highway 18, Lander, WY 82504. We are fortunate to be three blocks away from an excellent veterinarian, Dr. Dave Andersen, and next door to Canine Cuts. Please feel free to come and see us if you're in the area. Of course, the new Doggy Day Care will be run the same way as our other locations, with the same services you've come to expect from us.

--We love referrals and find that our happiest new clients come from recommendations. We want to thank you for suggesting us to your friends and family, so we are continuing the free bath program for new referrals. If you refer someone to us, ask them to give us your name so you will get credit. After they have finished their trial day, you will get your choice of a free day of daycare or a free bath.

--We are looking at moving the newsletter to a third-party email manager like Aweber or GetResponse. If we do, they will require that you "opt-in" to receive the newsletter. You will get an email from them asking you to confirm that you want to be on the list. We apologize for the inconvenience, but they do this to comply with anti-spam laws and to make sure that only those who want the newsletter get it. Thank you for your help and patience!

Rover Reports: How to Deal with Common Summer Pests

Summer is a great time for us to enjoy the outdoors—but summer is also flea, tick, and heartworm season, and prevention is crucial to keeping our pets healthy.

Don't underestimate fleas

While we don't have the trouble with fleas in Colorado that people do in other states, we need to watch for them. Fleas are found in areas that wild animals, such as rabbits or skunks, live. You can easily spot them if you turn your dog over and look at his stomach, or if your dog is scratching one area more than usual, part the hair there and take a close look. Fleas look like moving particles of reddish-brown dirt.

In one day, a flea can bite your dog hundreds of times and a female can lay several hundred eggs. Some dogs are allergic to flea bites and constant scratching can cause hair and skin problems.

Veterinarians used to recommend setting off a flea "bomb" in the house, spraying the yard with pesticide, and washing the dog with special shampoo. Washing the dog usually gets rid of the fleas. However, if the infestation is moderate to severe, the house and yard may need to be treated.

We keep an eye out for fleas and ticks here at Doggy Day Care and will let you know if we notice any on your dog.

Those tricky ticks

Ticks are sneaky and tend to hide on their hosts. Their bite can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or Lyme disease.

Ticks are dark brown or black, about the size of a pinhead, and look like a cross between a spider and a crab. They are found in wooded or marshy areas. If you take your dog into the mountains or near a lake or river, check her for ticks frequently. Ticks can be found in high grasses and weeds as well. Anywhere you see deer should also be considered risky for ticks.

Check yourself also—ticks love to feed on humans and can transmit the same diseases to us.

Ticks burrow into the skin to feed. If you find a roaming tick, drown it in a shot glass of rubbing alcohol or burn it. Make sure it is dead before disposing of it. If one has burrowed into you or your dog, use tweezers to grab it close to the skin and pull gently, without squeezing it. Check that the head and mouth come out of the skin. If they don't, contact your vet or your doctor.

A tick that has been feeding for a while will look like a white kernel of corn. Follow the same procedure for removing it—if you can, use fine-tip tweezers. The tick is bloated with blood, so be extra careful not to squeeze it. If you have a bloated tick, it might be a good idea to take it into your vet and have your dog checked, just in case.

Lyme disease symptoms in dogs include joint pain, loss of appetite, and fever. Symptoms of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever include loss of appetite, depression, joint pain, and vomiting or diarrhea.

What to use for fleas and ticks?

There are literally hundreds of products such as flea collars, sprays, and shampoos. "Spot-on" liquid products are very popular. These are applied directly to the dog's skin, usually between the shoulder blades and at the base of the tail.

You can find many different products at PetSmart or Petco, but we recommend talking with your vet first. Not all products work equally well; for example, a flea collar may work fine for a Dachshund, but not for a double-coated dog like a Chow. One spot-on product might have a record of making dogs sick while another is well tolerated.

When should I start treatment?

Start early rather than late. Tick season begins in the spring, peaks in May-June, and lasts through the fall. Fleas can live in warm areas year-round but are especially prevalent in warmer weather.

The dreaded heartworm

A word that can stop any dog lover in his tracks, heartworm is a serious disease transmitted by mosquitoes. When a mosquito sucks the blood of an animal with heartworm, larvae go along for the ride, ready to infect the next animal.

Once an animal is bitten, the larvae make their way to the heart. The worms grow to maturity in about 6 months, which is also how long it takes for a heartworm test to show positive. The worms damage the blood vessels of the heart and lungs and can kill a pet if left untreated.

Often the first symptom you will see is your dog coughing up the worms that made their way into the lungs. Other symptoms include difficulty breathing and exercising, loss of appetite, and fatigue.

Your vet can advise you on how often to test for heartworm and how long to keep your dog on preventative. Many vets are recommending using preventative year-round.

Read the label!

Flea, tick, and heartworm products are often sold according to the dog's weight. Their effectiveness depends on being the right strength, so it is vital to buy the correct dosage. If you have a puppy, make sure it can be used on young dogs.

Read and follow directions carefully. The directions for one type of flea and tick preventative may not work for another. Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly after applying. If your pet has no appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, or excessive salivation after application, call your veterinarian. These are signs of possible poisoning.

Find the right products to keep those pests away

Your vet can advise you on which product is best. You can also do some research online.

1-800-PetMeds has a comparison chart for flea and tick medication at <http://www.1800petmeds.com/Flea+and+Tick-cat10.html> .

A heartworm preventative comparison chart can be found at http://pethealth101.com/heartworm/heartworm_meds_chart.shtml.

Ask Spot:

Dear Spot,
Our cocker spaniel Maddie is afraid of thunderstorms. Why? None of my other dogs are.
--Curious in Lakewood

Dear Curious,
A storm can be tough for us dogs. You know how sensitive our ears are, so you can imagine how we feel when the thunder is loud. We smell the rain, and sometimes we can feel weather changes just like you can. It can be very confusing and scary, especially if we are very young or very old.

During a storm, please act normally and be calm. If you're nervous, Maddie will pick up on it and be nervous too. If you comfort her, then you're just confirming that storms are scary. It might help if you can take her to her kennel or a nice dark bathroom or bedroom to wait it out, or turn on the TV to mask the noise.

You can also make a storm fun. Play with Maddie, give her a new toy or a treat that she doesn't get often. If she likes rides, take her for a nice long one—before the storm starts if you can. The v-e-t might also be able to help her with some medication.

Remember, 4th of July is not a good time either. For a lot of us, fireworks are just as scary as thunderstorms.

Time for my bone!
Spot



If you have a question for Spot, please send it to info@doggydaycare.com. He will answer one question a month.

Recipe of the Month:

Adapted from *Pamper Your Dog: 130 Recipes for Your Canine Friend*, Anonymous.

Yogurt Freezies

Basic recipe:

16 ounces plain yogurt
¾ cup water
1 tablespoon chicken or beef bouillon granules

Dissolve bouillon in water. Thoroughly blend water and yogurt in blender. Pour into small containers, such as ice cube trays or Dixie cups, cover and freeze.

Variations (these are guidelines only, alter to taste):

Vanilla yogurt

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup homemade broth, stew, or soup instead of the bouillon and water (you may have to play with the amount to get the correct consistency)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup any kind of meat

1 or 2 sliced hot dogs

1 or 2 mashed bananas instead of bouillon and water

1 tablespoon honey

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup pureed pumpkin (good for tummy trouble)

Cooked veggies (no onions or garlic—toxic to dogs)

1-3 tablespoons peanut butter

What We Love About Dogs:

"This soldier, I realized, must have had friends at home and in his regiment; yet he lay there deserted by all except his dog. I looked on, unmoved, at battles which decided the future of nations. Tearless, I had given orders which brought death to thousands. Yet here I was stirred, profoundly stirred, stirred to tears. And by what? By the grief of one dog."

--Napoleon Bonaparte, on finding a dog beside the body of his dead master, licking his face and howling, on a moonlit field after a battle. Napoleon was haunted by this scene until his own death.

From <http://www.dogquotations.com/dogs-and-friendship-abc.html>

One Last Note:

We would like to thank you for your support and business. We love having your pups and hearing from you. If there is anything you'd like to see in our newsletter, or you have ideas for articles, please let me know at info@doggydaycare.com.

Take care and thanks again,
Marsha