



The Official Newsletter of

Companion Animal Hospital

and

Paws Inn

July 2009

Summer

Planning on taking your pet with you hiking or swimming this summer? If so, stop by Paws Inn to pick up a life jacket for your pet or a Tick Key to have on hand for easy tick removal. If your summer plans do not include taking along your furry friend, make sure to reserve them a cozy air conditioned room at our boarding facility so you can have a worry free vacation.

Paws Inn

Just A Reminder:

This is our busy season!
Please book your boarding and/or grooming appointments in advance.

Stop in at Paws Inn to check out our selection of pet life jackets.

New items:

Gift Cards
California Natural Pet Foods
Tick Keys (for easy tick removal)

Hot Spots, What Are They?

A hot spot is a superficial skin infection that results when the normal skin bacteria overrun the skin's defenses as a result of damage to the skin surface. This is most often started by the dog chewing or scratching at the site.

In the first stages of the formation, the skin becomes moist, inflamed (red), pruritic (itchy), and infected. Pus oozes from the damaged skin as bacterial infection sets in. The dried pus and damaged skin will form a tightly adhered crust, and the dog will lose hair over the infection site. Dogs will tend to show pain when the site is touched.

Hot spots enlarge rapidly, so early detection and treatment are important. Both dogs and cats can get hot spots, although dogs with dense undercoats (Golden Retrievers, Huskies, Malamutes, Chows, ect.) are more likely to develop them. Hot spots tend to be more common during the hot and humid months, but can occur year round depending on the cause.

Hot spots can be caused by anything that creates irritation and damage to the skin, causing the pet to chew or scratch at the area. Insect bites (flea, flies, etc.), allergies, excess skin moisture due to heavy/dense hair coats or matted hair, and scratches can lead to a hot spot.

Once you have noticed a hot spot on your pet, seek quick medical attention from your veterinarian. They will clip the hair from the infected area and clean it to allow the skin to dry. Some hot spots are so painful, sedation may be needed to adequately treat the site. Once the area is clipped and cleaned, your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics, anti-inflammatory medications and possibly pain medications to help the infected area heal.



The Pet Gazette



Hot Weather Tips to Keep Your Pets Healthy & Cool

- 1) Do not leave your pet alone in your car. Vehicles heat quickly in the sun, and animals left in them can succumb to heat stroke in a very short time.
- 2) To prevent your pet from overheating, do not let them exercise in hot weather. Wait to exercise your pet in the early morning or late evening, when it is cooler.
- 3) Make sure that your pet has a cool, shady place to rest during hot weather, as well as plenty of clean, fresh water, accessible at all times.
- 4) Be sure that your pet's vaccinations are up to date, especially rabies. During the summer months, pets often spend more time outdoors, which increases their chances of encountering wildlife (possible rabies carriers).
- 5) It's heartworm season. If your pet is not on heartworm prevention yet, get them tested and start a preventative. Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes, but can be prevented by administering a monthly medication.
- 6) Keep your pet well groomed. Daily brushing or combing lets you check for fleas and ticks, as well as for seasonal allergies.
- 7) Leashes save dog's lives. Keep your dog on a leash when you are walking them to prevent them from running into traffic or chasing other animals.
- 8) Play with your pet instead of stroking him to fend off firework fears. Playing a game with your pet when he shows early signs of anxiety, like pacing or trembling, can distract him from stressors and, in the long term, teach him to associate that same stressor with positive things such as play and treats.
- 9) Keep dogs away from picnic garbage. Ingesting corncobs and chicken and other bones can be life-threatening.
- 10) Do not leave pets unattended in swimming pools. Not all dogs can swim, or they may tire easily.
- 11) During the summer months, the number of cats that suffer from falling out of windows increases dramatically, so make sure your window screens are securely in place.

Referral Rewards Program: 1st Referral =
 (refer a friend,
 get a thank you!) \$5 CAH/ Paws Inn Gift Card
 2nd Referral or More =
 \$15 CAH/Paws Inn Gift Card

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