



my doggie news

New air conditioning makes My Doggies the coolest place to be in OC!

Some say its global warming, some say it's just a fluke; but without a doubt we are experiencing much warmer days in RSM than usual.

When we first leased our building, we were told that it wasn't practical to have traditional a/c systems in the back and so we utilized evaporative cooling units (also referred to as "swamp coolers"). Combined with our huge industrial fans, we have been able to maintain a comfortable, moderate temperature for our canine companions.

However, this year we have seen the temperature outside soar to 109° for several days at a time; making it a struggle for our evaporative coolers. Wanting to ensure the best for our furry friends, we called in several air conditioning experts to re-evaluate our options.

The end result: we have installed three (5) five ton a/c units with a customized air duct system that will operate in conjunction with our existing coolers. On the days when the temperature outside soars, we will close the large roll down door in the back, and let the new units cool the *entire* building - keeping your pooch happy and contented at all times!

Yes, this was a very expensive venture, and we are still a bit apprehensive to see our first electric bill. *But your dog's safety, comfort, and well-being will always been our #1 priority!*



Help us help them

We are currently seeing some of the highest rates in the nation for euthanasia occurring right here in Orange County. Last year, approximately 13,000 dogs and cats were euthanized. This is a staggering amount, and many animal advocates feel it may get worse before it gets better.

At *My Doggies Daycare*, we have teamed up with several local rescue organizations to try and help our community effectively manage its pet population.

Friends of Orange County Homeless Pets (www.FOCHP.org) have brought us several dogs to foster at our facility, and many have already been adopted. Their mission is to make homeless and unwanted pets in Orange County more adoptable by providing training, veterinary services, spay and neuter assistance and rescue.

A Wish for Animals (www.WishforAnimals.org) recently became involved with a severe animal cruelty case in which the person responsible was what one might call a "hoarder" or a misguided rescue person. Shocked by the physical and mental conditions of countless sick dogs and farm animals, AWFA focused all its efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, medically treat, shelter, and place over 200 of these abused animals.

If you have an interest in fostering, adopting, volunteering or contributing please visit either of these websites for more information. All of us at MDD hope to raise awareness about animal cruelty, hoarding, and animal welfare.

My Doggies Daycare is now the ONLY group play facility in South Orange County that is completely air-conditioned!

(Some facilities advertise that they are, when in fact only portions of their building have traditional air conditioning.)



"Cats—the fragrance for dogs who dare to be different!"

Are you boarding your dog with us this summer? Don't forget to make your reservations early - we fill up fast! Please bring only the following:

Food Bedding Toys Treats Bowls Medicines

Training an older dog

Most people have heard the saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." But for the most part, if it's done correctly, an older dog can be taught not only new tricks, but new behaviors in general. In fact, you may be surprised to know that training an older dog can actually be easier than training a puppy in many ways.

A variety of methods

There are different schools of thought when it comes to dog training. I believe that the use of food-based rewards lends itself better to the concept of "positive reinforcement" and avoids negative "correction" or "punishment". Harsh and punitive training methods just aren't necessary. It is too stressful and totally inappropriate for a senior dog. It is far preferable to be as gentle as possible, while using positive rewards and being fair, understanding, and, above all, consistent.

House training an older dog

If you've just brought home a newly adopted shelter or rescue dog, your first task will be to be sure he's housetrained. One big advantage of housetraining an older dog is that he has more bladder and bowel control than a puppy - is able to "hold it" for longer periods of time. However, in the beginning your new dog won't know where to go, and his system may be upset from a change in location and/or food, which can cause diarrhea. So at first, introduce him to his bathroom area and let him eliminate before bringing him in the house for the first time. Be patient and wait if necessary, praising him when he does.

After you bring him inside, don't expect him to know right away to tell you if he has to go out. Just expect it, and take him out, very frequently at first, praising him each time he goes. Once you are sure he is eliminating normally with no diarrhea or other upsets, put him on a regular elimination schedule just as you would a puppy. Make it a point to *prevent* accidents before they happen, rather than deal with or discipline him if they happen. Never punish your dog for an accident. Rather, just quietly clean up any mess, and continue with your schedule.

Obedience training for an older dog

If your older dog has not learned the basics - don't worry, he can still learn them. At a minimum, he should know sit, down, come, stay, and heel.

We offer training one-on-one in your home or at the daycare. I can work with your dog on techniques and any behavior modifications necessary - but keep in mind - I will need to work with you as well! All training methods must be reinforced at home - and consistency is vital. If you are unsure of the training required, I offer free training evaluations on Monday afternoons (by appointment please).

Obedience training with your senior dog can be a wonderful way to spend quality time together. Your dog will thrive on the attention and extra time you'll spend together. Even if your older dog can't run as well or see as well as a younger dog, he can still make progress in obedience training. It will be enjoyable and enriching for both of you.

-- Cradelle White

Canine Behavior Specialist



Wow...playing all day is hard work! (Our canine pals above wanted to be left in peace, but we couldn't resist taking these cute pics!)

Older rescue dogs bring many benefits...

Have you ever considered that many older dogs adopted from a shelter have advantages over puppies? Most have learned what "no" means and how to leave the furniture, carpets, shoes, and other household "chewables" alone. They have been "socialized" and know how to be part of a "pack". They are instant companions, ready for hiking, riding in a car, walking on a leash, fetching, etc.

Older dogs appreciate love and attention and quickly learn what's expected of them to gain and keep that love and attention. They are easy to assess for behavior and temperament, and you won't have to guess how big they'll grow!

Just about everyone who enters a shelter is looking for a puppy or a young dog. There are also many people who go to a breeder to buy puppies. By adopting an older dog, we can make a statement about compassion and the value of all life at all ages. You can give that older dog the best years of his life while at the same time bring a wonderful addition into your family.

What is Giardia?



Giardia is a single-celled parasite that lives in your dog's intestine. It infects older dogs but more frequently infects puppies. Dogs become infected when they swallow *Giardia* that may be present in water or other substances that have been soiled with feces.

How will *Giardia* affect my dog?
Many dogs infected with *Giardia* do not end up getting any disease. However, they may become asymptomatic carriers (dogs that show no symptoms or sign of illness, but are able to pass the disease on to others). (Giardiasis, the disease caused by *Giardia* infection, usually results in diarrhea. Some animals with giardiasis may also throw up. Having giardiasis a long time can cause weight loss; generally poor condition; and in rare cases, even death.

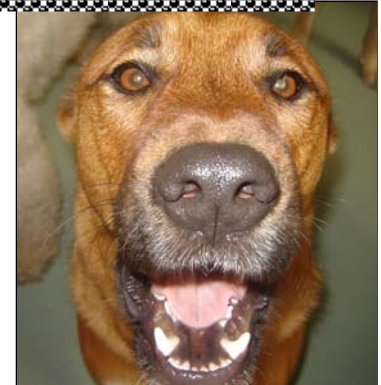
How do I prevent my dog from getting *Giardia*?

The best way to prevent *Giardia* infection is to make sure that your dog has safe, clean drinking water. It is important not to allow dogs to drink water from puddles, gutters, and bowls left out in the dog parks. Nor should you allow your dog to smell, lick or taste feces on the ground.

Your veterinarian can perform a test on your dog's feces to see if it has giardiasis. If your dog is infected with *Giardia*, your veterinarian can prescribe safe, effective treatment.

Can humans be harmed by *Giardia*?

Giardia is a common cause of diarrhea in people, and there is a chance that *Giardia* from dogs could infect people and cause disease. For this reason, if you think your dog may be infected, it is important to see a veterinarian for appropriate tests and safe, effective treatment. Infection of people with *Giardia* from dogs is rare. It is most common that people become infected by other people rather than from their pets.



Can my dog get sick at daycare?

We'd like to answer "no - never!", but of course this wouldn't be true. Taking your dog to a daycare is no different than taking your child to school; at times they may be exposed to a virus or infection which they may or may not pick up.

Unlike school though, when a dog exhibits any obvious signs of illness; diarrhea, vomiting, blood in urine, coughing or nasal discharge, he/she is quarantined immediately. Owners are contacted and if necessary we will transport your dog to a veterinarian.

Unfortunately, many infected dogs are asymptomatic (display no symptoms), and may be spreading an illness without any of us being aware. But please know, we do our utmost to help prevent this.

Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety and well-being of your pet. Water buckets are sanitized and re-filled every hour; feces are cleaned up immediately with approved, anti-bacterial, anti-virus cleaning agents. The Orange County Animal Control reports that we are "One of the cleanest and most sanitary dog care facilities in OC".

Regardless of where you take your pet - to a daycare, a park, a lake, or even just a walk; there is always a chance that he/she will pick up a cold. We encourage everyone to consider pet insurance (www.petsbest.com); the cost is minimal and will cover accidents as well as illness.

Should your dog ever be acting a little under the weather, please help us out by keeping him at home until he appears to be fully recovered. Together we can ensure your dog's continued health and well-being!

Dog's can get skin cancer too

Just like people, dogs can get skin cancer when exposed to the rays from the sun. Our lovable pooches are just as easily able to get sunburns as we are.

When a dog has a sunburn, they undergo the same painful experience that people do. Repetitive or prolonged sun exposure can increase their risk of getting skin cancer.

Dogs that have lighter or paler skin have less pigment to protect them from the sun's rays. Also, dogs that have a thinner coat are more likely to be at risk, because the sun's rays are able to still reach the dog's skin. The muzzle, ears and belly areas of a dog's body are at higher risk.

If your dog gets sunburn, do the following to help soothe the pain:

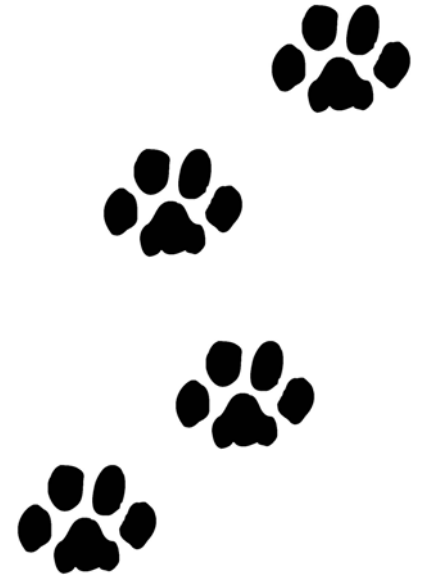
- Get your pet out of the sun as soon as possible
- Hose down your dog with cool water or place a cool, damp compress on the affected area
- Mix two parts water to one part witch hazel and gently apply to the coat
- Baking soda in a cool bath helps take out the sting
- Aloe Vera spray gel on sensitive, exposed areas helps soothe irritation



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www.MyDoggiesDaycare.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 363



**Receive a FREE day of daycare with
MDD referral cards - see our website for details!**



IT'S BATH TIME

At My Doggies Daycare!

Did you know we have full service grooming? Hand clips to shave downs, nail trims to teeth brushing - our groomers are simply the best!

We also offer just the basics: bath, conditioner & blow dry. Your pooch can go home smelling and looking great!