

DOGBITS

DECEMBER 2006



Ticks, cont'd

If your dog comes in contact with potential tick habitat, as most dogs do, make sure to check them over for ticks daily. Start at your dog's nose. Use your hands to massage your dog's skin, getting through the hair. Since ticks are so tiny, and most dogs have fur enough to hide them completely, your best tick finding method is by touch. Feel your dog all over, not forgetting around the eyes, neck, arm pits and ears. Ticks aren't stupid. Detection could mean death for them, so they will look for a secluded spot to feed. If you feel any bumps, part the hair for a visual inspection. A tick is usually a shade of gray or brown, and if engorged, will appear like a sac coming out of your dog's skin. If you look carefully, you will probably find legs, if the tick has not embedded itself too deeply yet.

If you find a critter, don't panic. Take these steps to remove the tick. Use fine point tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your dog's skin as possible. **DO NOT SQUEEZE!** Ticks carry all kinds of nasty infectious stuff in their bodily fluids, so you don't want to "pop" the tick's body. Gently pull out the tick, straight up. Ticks mouth parts are barbed for a secure bite, so pulling them out takes a bit of finesse. Once the tick is off your dog, wash your hands, tweezers and the bite site with antibacterial soap. To dispose of the tick, flush it down the toilet, don't squish it, which again will expose you and your pets to bacteria.

Now watch your dog in the next few weeks for any changes in health or behavior. These could be lameness, weight shifting, lethargy, poor appetite, etc. Some dogs have Lyme disease without noticeable symptoms, while others show drastic changes within days of hosting an infectious tick. Your veterinarian can run a blood test to verify Lyme, as well as other diseases passed by parasites.

Schu's Essential Report

Hey there, it's Schu again. I'm glad it's December! I have been talking with my friends in the goofy group, and it seems like the year has just flown by. We see so many goofy dogs come into our group and mature, and then off they go to the big yard. Some of you may have noticed how I never seem to graduate from the goofy group. Yep, I'm one of those super seniors; I'm actually a bit of a celebrity around here. Hey, I'm thinking that once I get over there in the big yard, I'll have to do all those things they do, like coming when called, sitting, admitting to knowing my name, oh, the list is long! At least in the goofy group Mom has an excuse for me, "well, he's still learning..." Harley Gorman taught me this. Seems he was in the goofy group and Pat brought him into the yard, well that wasn't Harley's idea of a good time. He sat by the goofy group fence until Pat sent him back in. She said, if that's what he wants to do it's ok. That's the most important information we give the new guys. If you don't like something, Whine.

Being in the goofy group has the great advantage of never ending play. Shelby, Vic, Zeeva and Bromley can all tell you that it doesn't get any better than that. By the way Harley did eventually go to the yard, same day Maggie did.

Happy New Years, Schu

Reminders

We are open every day, same hours, nothing changes on holidays except a lot more people running around.

Bring coats, we have some we'll use if they need one, Nigel, don't bring one, Louie AKA Gully, eats his so you have to wear it.

Nails clipped and ears cleaned free anytime

Cleanup is free

If you know someone who doesn't think their dog would do well at daycare, we work with them for free, and only charge if we can get them to like it.