



DOG DAYCARE LTD.

SOCIALIZATION
FUN PLAY
EXERCISE

LOVE & HEAD RUBS

Spot News: February 2007.

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February

Promotion of the Month

NOTHING SAYS
"I LOVE YOU"
LIKE LEATHER

For the month of February
buy any **RUFF STUFF** leather
collar and leash set from SPOT'S SHOP and
save \$10.⁰⁰



Ruff Stuff, a Vancouver-based company founded in 2003, serves the discerning fashion-conscious pet-lover, through a high-end designer line of collars and leashes. Their designers are committed to using the highest quality Italian leathers in creating stylish products for the most distinguished of urban dogs.

Bold colours coupled with Ruff Stuff trend-setting styles will set your dog apart from the rest, accenting their unique look and personality. www.ruffstuffpet.com

Pet Friendly Valentines Reminders

Romance, roses, candy, chocolate, candles, wine ... love is in the air but so is the need to remember some of those toxic things to protect your pet. The popular Valentines gift of chocolate can be dangerous to pets; just 2 ounces of chocolate eaten by even a 10lb dog can cause diarrhea/vomiting, seizures and an abnormally high heart rate. Candy sweetened with the sugar substitute called Xylitol can also result in serious harm. Thorns from roses would hurt and/or cause harm is bitten, stepped on or swallowed; so take caution with flowers. And finally watch the candles and wine. Curious paws and flames do not mix and neither does alcohol to your dog. If you suspect your dog has ingested any of these call your vet immediately. Check out the ASPCA poison control web site http://www.aspc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc for more details.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

HEY DOG BREATH!! February is National Pet Dental Health Month.

Dogs are prone to develop plaque on their teeth just like us. And like us, **plaque** (bacteria) leads to **tartar** (hardened plaque). Without proper preventative care, plaque and tartar leads to **gingivitis** (reversible inflammation of the gums) and ultimately to **periodontal disease** (inflammation of a tooth's structure). We all know how painful a

toothache can be, and unfortunately many dogs end up with dental problems but suffer silently. According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, dental problems occur in 80% of dogs over the age of three!

The good news is that gingivitis is reversible. Normally healthy gums fit tight around teeth. But as tartar builds up along the gum line, the gums are forced away from the teeth. Small pockets are created and become a haven for trapping bacteria resulting in infected and inflamed gums. If gingivitis continues, periodontitis develops. Gum infections attack the tooth structures, the roots become infected, the teeth loosen and eventually they detach. It is painful to say the least. So, the goal is to prevent oral infections such as periodontal disease, because if left untreated it could travel through the bloodstream and damage internal organs.

How to Identify the Problem

It is up to you to smell your dog's breath and look into your dog's mouth, particularly look in the cheek side of their upper premolars and molars. Plaque is yellow-brown and is soft when first deposited then hardens into tartar. Red, swollen, tender or bleeding gums suggest gingivitis. Also look for subtle behavioral changes such as: difficulty eating hard foods, change in eating habits, reluctance to chew on toys, or chewing on only one side of their mouth. If you see any of these signs, seek veterinary care and discuss the options that are best for you and your dog.

Prevention and Treatment

Begin with a dental exam at your veterinarians and if required have him or her clean, scale and polish your dog's teeth to remove all the plaque and tartar (this may involve a general anaesthetic). Prevention is the key and this involves you practicing a regular brushing routine (daily if you can). Obviously a compliant patient is required but so is patience and commitment on your part. Talk with your veterinarian about products, information and brushing methods that are suitable for your dog. Another option is to talk with the folks at In The Raw www.intherawpetfood.com about a bone that will be suitable to keep that grin a happy one!

Meet Lilly



Photos by Kate Morris

February Birthdays:

Bear Seppanen, Emma Phillips, Gracey Price, Kelly Lacey, Shyla Brown, Stella Mastrangelo, Josie Gazeley, Stella Black, Cassius Lund-Chow. Come see us on your birthday for a free day of daycare. Happy Birthday!!

UPDATED WEB SITE

We have updated our web site which now includes a **Monthly Events Calendar** www.aspotforspot.ca/news showing what's going on here at the daycare as well as what our monthly promotions are and community events.

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