



DOGBITS

Gulliver's Doggie Daycare



March/April 2008

Gulliver's Corner

Happy Spring everyone! I am ready for some sunshine and green grass! We are already enjoying more than an hour more outside playtime due to Daylight savings. I apologize for the delayed March edition; I got all caught up in getting ready for the circus that before I knew it Buster Fawcett and Cooper Sullivan were playing April Fools Jokes on me!! I haven't gotten to introduce you all to my new baby sisters. They are both Irish Wolfhounds. They are nice enough, but they keep stealing my spot on the bed. At 4 months old and 70+ pounds, they don't leave me much space!! I have included a picture of them both. Grace on L, Alice on R.



I told my Dane friend Biggie that they would be coming to Daycare to meet everyone and play. We have petitioned the staff for a giant dog group, but they seem to think that we will get lonely and miss our lab friends like Sally Byer and other friends who are shepherds, goldens, hounds and poodles. Guess they are right; those guys make our big yard group lots of fun!

Canine Heartworm Disease

The warm weather is upon us. Sunny days spent running around, playing in the pools and lakes, romping in the woods...We're all anxious for the weather to improve! We must remember that with rising temperatures some very icky, very dangerous insects begin lurking in most of our favorite hang-out spots!!

A summertime nemesis of humans and dogs, the Mosquito, is not only obnoxious, it can carry deadly Heartworms. Heartworms can actually infect more than 30 species of animals (e.g., foxes, coyotes, wolves and other wild canids, domestic cats and wild felids, ferrets, sea lions, etc.) and humans as well!

When a mosquito carrying infective heartworm larvae bites a dog, transmitting the infection, the larvae grow and over a period of months migrate to the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels while becoming sexually mature male and female worms. As they begin mating, the females will release their offspring (microfilariae) into the bloodstream. Male heartworms can grow 4-6 inches in length and females grow 10-12 inches.

Heartworm disease is caused by the damage from adult worms once they enter the blood vessels of a dog's lungs. The vessels become swollen and scarred and blood flow becomes increasingly

restricted. The blood pressure in the right lung starts to rise, causing pulmonary hypertension. The right side has to work harder to pump blood through the lung, eventually leading to heart failure. If the disease is severe enough, the worms will die and enter the smaller arteries in the lung and the dog's body will react with an inflammatory response and numerous clots. Severe damage will eventually cut off the blood supply to the outer parts of the lung and will cause the lung to shut down.

Prevention is always easier than Treatment of Heartworms. Treatment can be very costly and time consuming. Regular testing is critical for prevention. Puppies should begin preventative as soon as it is safe (usually 6-8 wks). Adult dogs should start before the local transmission season, and continue treatment 2-3 months after the season. Yearly prevention is given to dogs that live in warm climates.

Don't forget the other pesky critters, the flea and tick. Prevention should also begin for those guys!! With all of our preventatives in order, we can enjoy a care-free, bug-free, disease free outdoor season!! Bring on the sunny summer days!!

Tails From the Goofy Group

Hi There, Schumacher here. I had a great time at the Circus Party. There were so many great costumes! Cashmere and Tango were clowns, Biggie was a strong man, Lee was a big ferocious cat and Levi was a ringmaster. Lucy had a pretty ruff on and Fuego and Grimm came as circus peanuts! We also had a giraffe and many acrobatic canines showing off their talents on the agility circus stuff. See the pictures at www.doggiedaycare.com!



Here at Gulliver's

*By Ginny Poquette **

My name is Daisy. I am a beagle. Before I came to daycare, things seemed old and boring. I was home all day long by myself. My Family decided to let me try Daycare. On my first day here I was a little scared. Everything was new. Some people welcomed me in and took me to meet a lot of other little dogs. They all became my friends. We played and ran around all day. When my family came to pick me up it took the staff forever to catch me, because I didn't want to leave! They finally did catch me. I said goodbye to my friends and got back into the car. A few days later my family brought me to play again! I was so excited and happy! Now I get to come to Gulliver's almost every day when no one is at home. Things aren't old and boring anymore. Now I have FUN!

**Ginny is 11 years old. On the weekends she volunteers with the little dogs*