

COMMON CANINE BOARDING AILMENTS & MEDICAL TREATMENTS

Boarding can be a stressful event for both you and your dog. Muddy Creek Animal Care Center makes every effort to ensure your pet will have a happy and healthy stay. Despite our efforts however, some animals become extremely anxious due to changes in their normal diet or environment, and may develop stress-related illnesses. In most cases, stress-related illnesses are easily treatable and normally subside with minor medical attention. In the event of a common boarding ailment, as described below, our veterinary staff will administer appropriate medical care.

Stress Colitis (Diarrhea)

Stress colitis is an inflammation of the colon secondary to stress. Change in an animal's routine or environment can sometimes be enough stress to cause this problem. Diarrhea is not only uncomfortable; it can result in dehydration, weight loss and depression if left untreated. Our protocol for treating diarrhea is as follows:

- Change diet to Low Residue Formula and wait 24 hours.
- If no improvement, collect fecal sample to run a lab test to rule out parasites and/or bacterial growth.
- If the fecal result is positive for parasites, a safe, broad spectrum de-wormer is administered and the diet is changed to a high-fiber or bland diet. A bland diet helps decrease inflammation of the intestines and often corrects the diarrhea. A physical exam is required in order to dispense medication.
- If the fecal result is negative, the diet is changed to a high-fiber or bland diet to help decrease inflammation of the intestines.
- If diarrhea persists or worsens within 24 hours of changing the diet, attempts will be made to contact the owner or emergency contact to discuss further medical treatment. In most cases, additional treatment consists of a full physical examination by a veterinarian, anti-inflammatory and/or antibiotic medications, and/or fluids to help re-hydrate the animal due to loss of fluids from the diarrhea.
- Any and all treatment provided is at the client's expense.

Ear Infections:

Ear infections are commonly seen at Muddy Creek, during the spring and summer when conditions are humid. Ear infections are caused by bacteria or yeast organisms both of which can be normal inhabitants on your pet's skin and ears. A change in the ear's environment, which allows excessive numbers of these organisms to grow, is what normally causes an ear infection. Factors that change the ear environment may include skin parasites, hair in the ear canal, allergies, swimming, skin disorders, and hot, humid weather. Floppy-eared breeds including cocker spaniels, golden retrievers and beagles tend to be more prone to chronic ear infections. If our animal attendants suspect an ear infection, the following protocol is followed:

- Animal attendants will clean the ears and monitor for improvement over the next 24 hours.
- If no improvement is noted or condition worsens within 24 hours, we will attempt to contact the owner or emergency contact for consent to have a veterinarian perform a full examination and provide treatment.

- If we cannot contact the owner or emergency contact number within 24 hours of detection, we will provide minimal treatment which may include a physical exam, ear smear, and oral or topical medications.
- Any and all treatment provided is at the client's expense.

Kennel Nose & Kennel Paw:

Due to stress and anxiety, some animals will continuously rub their noses or feet/paws against the kennel doors. This sometimes causes their nose or feet/pads to become extremely dry, resulting in cracking or bleeding.

- Animal Attendant cleans affected area and may apply topical antibiotic ointment to aid in preventing infection.
- If no improvement is noted or condition worsens within 12 hours, we will attempt to contact the owner or emergency contact for consent to have a veterinarian perform a full examination and provide treatment.
- If we cannot contact the owner or emergency contact number within 12 hours of detection, we will provide minimal treatment which may include physical exam by the veterinarian, bandage materials, sterile materials, and oral and topical medications.
- Any and all treatment provided is at the client's expense.

Hot Spots:

Hot Spots frequently occur during the spring and summer when conditions are humid. Hot spots are generally caused by excessive licking, biting, or chewing of the skin and may result in open, infected sores requiring medical attention. Our animal attendants are careful to watch for this behavior and make any adjustments to help prevent any further trauma.

Medical treatment is usually minimal; the following protocol is followed if medical treatment is necessary:

- Animal Attendant cleans affected area and may apply topical antibiotic cream to aid in preventing infection. An Elizabethan collar may be placed on your pet to discourage your pet from licking or chewing affected areas.
- If no improvement is noted or condition worsens within 12 hours, we will attempt to contact the owner or emergency contact for consent to have a veterinarian perform a full examination and provide treatment.
- If we cannot contact the owner or emergency contact number within 12 hours of detection, we will provide minimal treatment which may include physical exam by the veterinarian, skin scrape to determine present infection, and oral and topical medications.
- Any and all treatment provided is at the client's expense.