



From the Dog Park Board

This is a time when we all need to keep our eyes and ears open, and note when we think someone is in need. If you see or hear something, let us know and we can try to give suggestions on where help might be found. Our community is made up of compassionate people with many resources. There are places to turn for vet assistance, dog care assistance, pet food and even for just some emotional support at a trying time. Please let us know if someone is unable to care for a pet in one of these ways and we will try to provide guidance for resources. This virus will impact our community but if we all band together to use all our tools we can do damage control and keep our pets from becoming collateral damage. Follow the steps in this newsletter to keep your pet and yourself as safe as possible over the next months. And add tick and flea control along with the protocol on this page to do the same. These are all important guidelines that protect both canine and human lives and well-being.



The truth about how to keep you & your dog safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Fortunately, the World Health Organization reports that as of now, there is absolutely **NO EVIDENCE** that a dog, cat or any pet can transmit COVID-19. There has also been a study conducted at the University of Maine that concludes the same results. Rumors about a pomeranian dog testing "weak positive" in China have not proven to be true.

So can a dog spread COVID-19 to other humans? If a person with the virus pets a dog, others can be then exposed to the virus. However, this is definitely not a common method of transmission. A very good rule is to wash your hands thoroughly before and after petting any dogs. **SO WHILE AT THE DOG PARK, PLEASE DO NOT PET DOGS YOU DON'T KNOW, OR WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE DOG'S OWNER.**

Should you make some preparations for your pet in case we need to shelter in place? Absolutely! Two weeks to a month's supply of extra dog food and medicines should be in your home at this time **JUST IN CASE!** Make sure you check with your vet in case your dog needs bloodwork before a medication refill can be provided.

The government suggests we all follow the CDC guidelines and make a plan for care for your pet in case you become infected. And do **NOT** abandon your dog because of COVID-19 concerns like many did in Wuhan. Avoid high traffic areas where you can't

practice social distancing; if you are at the dog park, respect that others will prefer that you stay at least six feet away, that they will not want you to pet their dog, and that you shouldn't be at the park if you have been exposed to the virus or don't feel well. Finally, before you put your dog into the house or even the car, get in the habit of wiping your dogs feet with paw wipes to halt the spread of germs.

Advice from Dr. Frank Alfano DVM

Warm weather will soon be here along with the increase of fleas and ticks. However, there is also an increase in internal parasite risk. A comprehensive study was conducted across the US on fecal samples taken from dog parks. Intestinal parasites were found in 7 percent to half of dogs visiting dog parks.

If you choose to visit a park, always make sure your dog is on a preventative parasite control. There are many products available that help control the majority of parasites a dog can contract. Another strong reason to practice this parasite control: a number of parasites like roundworm, hookworm and tapeworms are zoonotic which means they can be passed from dogs to people, children as most susceptible. So when visiting a park, please pick up after your dog to help minimize disease spread.