



Important take-aways:

Please make sure you help out with the annual appeal if you haven't done so yet. We count on our park visitors and supporters to help us raise at least half the money we need (\$10K) to run the park - to keep it in good repair, clean, safe, and stocked with mutt mitts and biodegradable waste bags. We still have a ways to go as of the week of this newsletter, so please do what you can afford to do to help the park at this time. The Board works hard to raise the remainder by manning water tables at the Cape Cod Marathon, running a major fund raising event every year, and selling merchandise like the great sacks pictured here. But we need donations to raise the other half. Thank you in advance for helping to make that happen.



Start planning for the annual **Howlin' Good Time Costume Contest** Sat., Oct. 26 2-3 p.m. (Raindate 10/27)



Categories:
 Human/canine or canine/canine team
 Best sports team fan
 Most original
 Best superhero



More about those ticks... but were afraid to ask...

The news has been filled with warnings about a new tick-borne virus as well as information about Triple E and its potentially deadly results. With the weather becoming much nicer for hikes and walks and outside activities again, we thought it might help to give you some of the latest findings about ticks and tick borne diseases and some precautions you should take when venturing outside with your pup.

First, according to the August 25th Boston Globe, there is no such thing as a Deer Tick! The correct name is the Blacklegged Tick. And deer don't pass on the virus to ticks; the truth is that tick larvae get infected when they feed on small mammals, most often the white-footed mouse. So getting rid of deer would not really curtail this situation.

Second, all six New England states rank in the top 10 for Lyme disease. with over 10 times the number of instances of Lyme reported in 2018 compared to 1999. And the Globe also noted that Massachusetts officials fear only 10 percent of the actual number with the disease are being reported. It is estimated that over 300,000 people in the US contract Lyme disease each year. The Lyme-carrying tick is confirmed to be in 44 states with coastal and north

central states among the highest, but Pennsylvania topped the charts with more than 9000 confirmed cases in 2017! Researchers are about five years away from having a vaccine available and are also seeking ways to genetically alter the mice so they can make them immune to Lyme.



So what can you do NOW? Make sure you are giving your dog a tick preventative. Comb your dog with a narrow toothed comb and check its ears and between its toes when you come in. Use insect repellent with DEET or permethrin. Wear long sleeves, long pants, high socks and white to make it easier to spot ticks. Avoid high grass areas. Put clothing into a high heat dryer for 10 minutes after being outside. Shower and check hair, ears, armpits, belly button, waist, legs and back of knees.

Remember, ticks can be the size of a poppy seed. And there will not be a rash in a good percentage of those with a tick-borne virus. Notice if you or your dog seems fatigued, has a fever, flu-like symptoms, loss of appetite or has a bulls-eye rash or other type of rash or swelling of the lymph glands. Seek medical assistance sooner than later if you or your pup does.

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