



November Newsletter

Dogs – Hot Spots

Hot spots are a fairly common skin problem. They can happen anytime of the year, but getting them during the summer months is more common.

A hot spot is a spot on the skin that is inflamed and infected. The infection can be on the surface or deep. Hot spots are usually caused and made worse by biting, licking, or scratching. To break the cycle of developing hot spots, your vet will need to determine the underlying cause.

The most common areas for a hot spot to be found are the belly, back, rump and under the tail because these areas are warm and moist. Hot spots can also appear on the ears, neck and chest. If your pet is continually scratching an area, check and see if there are any sores.

Some of the symptoms of hot spots are redness, oozing, pain and itchiness. The hair over the hot spot can be matted which hides the size and degree of the problem. There could also be hair loss around the sore spot. Hot spots can be caused by fleas, mites, an insect sting or bite, allergies or an injury. They can also be caused by ear infections, eye problems or dental disease.

If you suspect your pet has a hot spot, contact your veterinarian. Hot spots can be very painful to the animal and the infection can spread rapidly.

You'll want to clean the area with cool water or diluted hydrogen peroxide and a gentle skin cleanser. Gently pat the area; never rub hard over the spot. Remember the skin around the sore is inflamed; rubbing will cause your pet severe pain. Use a cool wet washcloth as a cool compress and apply to the area 2 to 4 times a day. Keep the area as dry as possible. Keep your dog from scratching and licking the area, if possible. Your veterinarian may prescribe oral antibiotics, topical drying sprays or special shampoos depending on the severity of the hot spot. Avoid using creams because they will keep moisture in the area and prevent healing.

On The Lighter Side!

Dog Property Rules

If I like it, it's mine.

If it's in my mouth, it's mine.

If I can take it from you, it's mine.

If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.

If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are mine.

If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours.

If it just looks like mine, it's mine.

If I saw it first, it's mine.

If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.

If it's broken, it's yours.

Feline Physics Laws

Law of Cat Motion

A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.

Law of Cat Stretching

A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.

Law of Cat Composition

A cat is composed of Matter + Anti-Matter + It Doesn't Matter

Law of Cat Sleeping

All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved, and as comfortable as possible for the cat.

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