



Dog Meadow – December 2022

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Welcome to the Dog Meadow December 2022 Newsletter. The signs of winter have already made their appearance with light snow. Living on such a bucolic property makes both Laura and I truly enjoy every season now. Thank you for your support, and we're happy that you are joining us for a summary of some of the goings-on at Dog Meadow.



"That little mud ball looks like he's having fun" – Dog Mom

OUR MISSION

In 2019, we opened Dog Meadow to create a beautiful, relaxed, fun, stress-free home away from home. We wanted to offer dogs a place to visit that was fun, interesting, and cozy, but not crowded with many dogs playing in indoor spaces or with kennelled barking dogs and a stressful overstimulating atmosphere. Many dogs, just like people, are stressed by crowds and noise. All of our practices have the intent to procure this calm, home-like environment, free of anxiety-provoking confinement, while still offering a lot of fun activities and free play in the meadow – all in a safe, dog-proofed environment.

We want to thank our loyal customers that bring their dogs to us on a weekly basis and those that happily board with us throughout the year. We have small breeds, large breeds, and a large mix of rescues with each one coming with a different personality. The one essential trait they have in common is that they all get along and bring out the best in each other.



A White Christmas at Dog Meadow.

A CHRISTMAS SONG PER DAY

Who doesn't love the joyous music of Christmas? If you don't, you can skip this segment.

If you do, Laura, the beautiful and talented Lady of Dog Meadow will be recording a piano version of a Christmas song every day. Each recording will be at least 30 seconds long and will be the soundtrack for a video of the dogs and/or anything related to Dog Meadow and the Christmas holiday. On occasion, her 5th Grade Chorus will join for a sing-along. Look out for them throughout the month of December and through Christmas Day.

Oh, and if you have a favorite that hasn't been played, let us know and she may just record one and make it a dedication. Happy Listening!



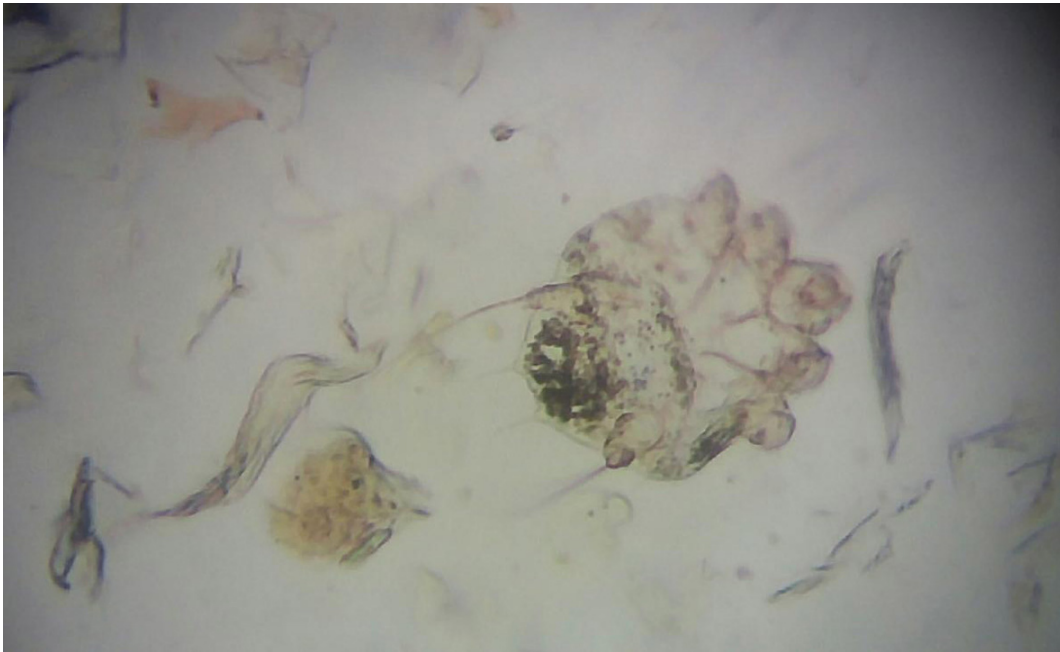
Photo credit: Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

BOOKING REMINDERS

We are currently booked for the Christmas/New Year holiday. And, we're already booking into mid-2023.

So, if you are in need of boarding services during peak times with us, please note that we take a small number of dogs, and booking early is key. So, book early for graduations, Independence Day, and yes, even next Christmas.

REMEMBER: All new dogs require a trial day (no exceptions) so planning ahead is important. We list our required vaccinations on our website. We always ask for a deposit for all bookings. We do not guarantee nor hold a spot if the deposit is not made. **It is recommended to pay the deposit immediately** or you just may lose the spot—kind of like purchasing concert tickets on Stubhub.



Sarcoptic mange, caused by the Sarcoptes scabiei mite, is the most common.

MANGE

Back in July, I wrote about mange. A dog was slated to join us for a few days, but the owners had noticed the dog was scratching profusely on his underbelly. Thankfully, we work with our clients to be proactive about their dog's health. The dog was taken to the vet and they did in fact find mites that cause mange. They were lucky that it was the non-contagious type and that the dog was treated and kept at home. This made us dig a little deeper into what Mange is. The “umbrella” term mange refers to two specific skin diseases in dogs caused by mites: demodectic and sarcoptic mange.

Sometimes called red mange, demodectic mange is caused by the Demodex mite, a small cigar-shaped parasite with eight legs that lives in a dog's hair follicles. Passed from mothers to their offspring (it's not contagious between dogs and doesn't infect humans), these parasites seldom create problems, except in young puppies with immature immune systems.

The most common, sarcoptic mange, spreads rapidly between dogs. As this mite burrows into the skin, it can cause, among other symptoms, intense itching, redness and rash, thick yellow crusts, hair loss, and bacterial and yeast infections. In advanced cases, it can cause thickening of the skin and/or lymph node inflammation, and in extreme cases, emaciation. It can reproduce on a dog, but not on a human, so a human cannot become infested with it. However, it can persist on a dog endlessly until halted. Should YOUR dog have any obvious issues with his skin, have him promptly evaluated by your vet.

There is a specific variety of the Sarcoptes Scabiei mite that causes scabies in people; humans can become infected with other varieties of the S. Scabiei mites (from wildlife or domestic animals) and may develop a short-lived infection.

Mange affects a variety of mammals – most notably foxes and other canids, bears, coyotes, rabbits, squirrels, and raccoons. Sarcoptic mange is a zoonotic disease – This means that domestic mammals such as dogs and humans can also contract the disease.

Mange is an emerging wildlife disease and the focus of many studies. We have noticed more and more posts about mange in wildlife on social media groups such as Facebook. Sarcoptic mange, in particular, is being reported in new geographic areas, in increasing numbers. Virginia has noted a significant mange issue in Black Bears in the Winchester area; Pennsylvania is also noting an increase in affected bears. Biologists and researchers are working toward learning more about this disease.

When in doubt, err on the side of caution and ask your vet to provide you with detailed instructions on how to eliminate sarcoptic mites from your dogs and keep them out – fur-ever.

On the advice of our vet, we have switched over to NexGard, a flea and tick preventative that also protects against both mites that can cause mange. Bravecto is also another flea and tick preventative that offers protection from mange. Please discuss with your veterinarian which one would suit your dog best.

CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY

Dog Meadow has a policy in place for the benefit and safety of our dogs. From requirements, drop-off times, trial days, the packaging of food when boarding, deposits, etc. We've put a lot of effort into being fair to everyone. Therefore, we ask that you read our FAQs and Terms and Conditions before booking with us. If we do not fulfill your needs, we're happy to recommend a place that might be more suitable for your dog.

Our most recent change in policy is:

As of December 1, 2022, due to insurance and liability issues, we regret we can no longer accept dogs of the "bully breed" classification or mixed breeds that have the appearance or characteristics of one of these breeds.

We remind you that Dog Meadow is not a kennel per se, but a home and a farm, with only a small number of dog customers, and without a large staff.



Laura with a small gift.

Dog Meadow Blog

Laura Evans, Lady of Dog Meadow, writes a Dog Meadow blog entry on a weekly basis (more or less). She shares life at Dog Meadow as well as trials and tribulations in life as a whole. Every entry includes an easy-to-follow recipe at the end. We encourage you to read it [*here*](#) and please subscribe.

Did you know...

You can do something to help Dog Meadow? Yes, you can! And it takes less than a minute. If you follow us on Instagram or Facebook, "liking" and/or sharing our posts greatly increases our exposure and ensures that your dog will always have doggy friends to play with here at Dog Meadow.

Bookings

Please remember to book your dog's stay early at Dog Meadow. **Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email.** As of January 2022, we require deposits for all stays. It is up to you to reach out to us if and when you are ready to book your dog's stay. Booking requests must be made and confirmed via email. If you do not have an email confirming a reservation for specific dates, you do not have a reservation.

With that said, we remind you to make sure that your dog's vaccinations are up-to-date. We encourage you to check your records and make appointments

with your dog's vet, if needed, to ensure that he is in good health. You can find our **requirements** on our website.

Finally, let's all be safe and kind to one another.



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