



Dog Meadow – November/December 2023

While we celebrate the joyous festivities of the holiday season, our commitment to our furry friends remains steadfast. Amidst the cheer, we need to shed light on important topics regarding the health and safety of our canine companions. We'll discuss how to empower ourselves as dog owners with knowledge about a new illness as well as safety measures that can protect our dogs during the holidays. We can equip ourselves to ensure the happiest, healthiest lives for our beloved four-legged pals by staying informed. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our community where we advocate not just for tail wags and treats, but also for a brighter, healthier future for our canine companions.



THAT NEW MYSTERIOUS CANINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE

A concerning respiratory ailment, initially spotted in Oregon around August, has been affecting dogs across North America. Vets are dubbing it a "mysterious illness" due to the challenge of pinpointing its cause. Standard treatments have proven ineffective in many cases, leading to the unfortunate demise of some dogs.

As of now, there's no suspicion of this illness being present in New York. However, it's causing unease among city dog owners. Dog parks are seeing fewer visitors, and in many buildings, neighbors are implementing a tricky, yet not impossible elevator rule allowing only one dog at a time.

Vets have struggled to identify the root cause despite testing infected dogs for known viruses and bacteria. This has raised concerns about the emergence of a new pathogen in our post-COVID era. However, negative test results might not necessarily rule out the illness due to various factors. For instance, by the time a dog visits the vet, it might have stopped shedding the pathogen causing the illness, leading to false-negative results. Additionally, not all owners opt for comprehensive tests, as a diagnosis doesn't usually alter the treatment plan.

Some experts speculate that changes in dog care practices during the pandemic might contribute to this issue. With increased dog ownership and disrupted veterinary care, canine vaccinations may have declined. Reduced socialization and working from home also minimized the need for services like doggy daycare, potentially affecting associated vaccinations against ailments like Bordetella and canine parainfluenza. Now that COVID days are supposedly over, one can and should take care of vaccinations, but are now facing a double-edged sword of re-socializing their dogs.

There's an emphasis on reports suggesting that the illness hasn't responded to commonly prescribed antibiotics. However, this isn't surprising, as most canine respiratory issues are viral, making antibiotics ineffective. Veterinarians caution against requesting antibiotics for conditions like kennel cough, as it can contribute to antibiotic resistance. Antibiotics are typically deemed necessary when a dog develops pneumonia, signified by breathing difficulties resulting from the illness moving into their lungs.

What Should You Do

While the veterinary community is figuring out a solution, here are some simple steps to help protect your dog from the mystery illness:

Limit Contact: Avoid places where dogs gather like dog parks, daycare, and boarding facilities. Opt for having a family member or friend pet sit at home if possible. Consider getting grooming services at home.

Be Cautious During Walks: Prevent nose-to-nose contact with other dogs and avoid shared water bowls in public places.

Vaccinations Are Key: Ensure your dog is up-to-date with vaccinations against Bordetella, Canine Influenza, Parvovirus, and Distemper. Consult your vet for advice tailored to your dog's health.

Consider Health Conditions: Dogs with existing health issues or undergoing treatments like Lyme disease or heartworm are more vulnerable, therefore more precautions should be taken in these circumstances.

Visit the Vet When Needed: If your dog shows signs of respiratory issues or behaves unusually, consult your vet. Vet clinics take extra cleaning precautions, and some may even offer curbside services if you're concerned about exposure.

Taking these precautions can greatly reduce the risk of your dog contracting this illness while keeping them healthy and safe.



Jack's Livingroom

HOW IS DOG MEADOW HANDLING THE NEW CANINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE?

At Dog Meadow, where we accommodate a limited number of dogs in a unique setting, the safety and well-being of our furry guests are our top priorities. We've always upheld stringent measures to ensure the excellent health of all dogs staying with us, requiring up-to-date vaccinations and careful screening of every dog.

Our indoor area is thoughtfully designed for easy maintenance, ensuring cleanliness with regular and thorough cleaning routines. We pay close attention to toy usage and diligently monitor water bowls to maintain hygienic conditions.

We take immense pride in upholding the highest standards and maintaining a close relationship with our trusted veterinarian. They are well-informed about the current respiratory disease concerns, and we rely on their expertise and the latest updates from the veterinary community. This ensures that we're equipped with the most current information to sustain the exceptional care we offer.

The parents whose dogs are scheduled to stay with us during the holiday season have received a separate email that contains recommendations that we've carefully curated with our veterinarian, tailored to ensure the utmost safety and well-being of your pets during their stay with us. Similarly, the existing daycare guests, as well as, all new dogs are being alerted to our process. We have confidence in their responsible care and trust that they're conscientious about their dogs' well-being when bringing them to us.

If you are looking to board your dog any time, do so with a place that takes all of this into account.



Be wary of those open gates.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS – LET'S KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE

Delightful Delights

We all love spoiling our four-legged pals during holiday meals by sharing some of our delicious food. But, some things we eat during these special dinners aren't great for dogs. Since holiday recipes differ a lot, it's a good idea to avoid giving dogs any of our cooked food. Be extra careful to skip ingredients and holiday treats that aren't dog-friendly!

Many of these foods can cause liver and kidney failure which can be fatal. Some will cause issues to the heart and digestive system, seizures, respiratory issues, tremors, coma, or worse. Some will cause anemia, diarrhea, irregular heartbeats, and paralysis. Finally, bones can cause intestinal perforations that can lead to death.

Holiday foods that are bad for dogs include:

Alcohol, Caffeine, Candy, Chocolate, Dairy Products, Eggnog, Garlic, Onions, Chives, Ham, Bacon, Nutmeg, Nuts, Raisins, Grapes Salt and Sugar, and Turkey Bones.

Gregarious Guests

Hosting guests is enjoyable for everyone, but when they arrive and the doors open, your low-to-the-ground dog can easily slip out unnoticed, increasing the risk of escape. Additionally, if the front gate is left open, there's a possibility your dog might dash out into the street, enticed by a squirrel, or due to lack of supervision. Be watchful as people leave as well.

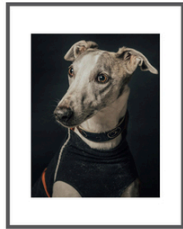
Being indoors requires extra vigilance, especially concerning the safety of young children, particularly toddlers, who might inadvertently engage in rough play with the dog, leading to potential retaliation. Toddlers, due to their age and limited awareness, might not fully understand how to interact gently with pets, increasing the risk of unintended harm. Furthermore, their slower reaction times may pose a risk if they're carrying food that could be harmful to the dog. Dogs, known for their swift reactions, might swiftly seize an opportunity to grab and swallow food items that are potentially dangerous to them before anyone intervenes.

Tips on keeping your dogs safe:

- Know where your dog is before opening a door
- Make certain that he has a strong recall
- Teach your dog to go to his "safe" place
- Confine your dog to another room
- Be extra vigilant of children and keep unsafe food out of their reach
- Self-closing gates
- Consider installing an electronic fence around the property
- Make sure that the electric perimeter fence and collar is working
- GPS collar with proper identifying tags
- Plan ahead and send him to a safe and reliable boarding facility

December 1st - December 16th
**Friends of Millbrook Library
Holiday Silent Auction**
Millbrook Library

READY-TO-HANG
PORTRAIT OF YOUR DOG
by Kleber Santos



Includes:

- Portrait session of your dog in a studio environment
- One image will be selected by the owner
 - Professionally printed
 - Matted and Framed



FOTOSBYSANTOS.COM



A HOLIDAY GIFT — A DOG PORTRAIT

A few years ago I had a photography exhibit at the Millbrook Library. The portraits were of several dogs that have stayed with us. Subsequently, I was asked by the neighboring Library of Pleasant Valley to have an exhibit. Both shows were received with great enthusiasm and all the profits that were made from the sales of the shows

went to benefit each Library respectively. As a result, I was even asked by some folks to photograph their dogs.

This year I was asked to be part of a Silent Auction at the Millbrook Library. Of course, I naturally said, "Yes." There are hundreds of items up for bid and all proceeds from this event directly support the Library by underwriting special projects not covered by the Library's operating budget.

The auction is simple: A number is assigned to you and you write it on a clipboard along with the amount you wish to pay. If you are local, you know where it is. If not they are located at 3 Friendly Ln, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Happy bidding and good luck!



Hundreds of items available to bid on at The Millbrook Library Silent Auction



DON'T FORGET?

We are currently booked for the Christmas/New Year holiday. And, we're already booking into 2024.

So, if you require 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.



Laura and Jack.

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.** 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.



©2023 Dog Meadow | 578 Tyrrel Rd Millbrook, NY 12545

Like +1

[Web Version](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®