

## TailWaggers Doggy Daycare® Pea Stone Notice

This Pea Stone Notice is made by TailWaggers Doggy Daycare, LLC, TailWaggers Franchise Trio, LLC and/or their affiliates, employees, managers, members, officers, agents, successors, assigns, clients and franchisees (collectively, the "TW Parties") at any of their locations (collectively, the "TW Locations").

TW Parties use pea stone in their outdoor play areas at the TW Locations. Pea stones are small, round stones without sharp or rough edges. Pea stone is a recommended surface for dog play areas because it is a forgiving surface that is easier on dog's joints than concrete. Pea stone also allows urine to sink through to the ground below while fecal matter sits on top of it, where it is more easily noticed and picked up as promptly as possible. This allows the TW Parties to keep the outdoor areas generally free of waste.

Many dogs have no issues running and playing on pea stone. Some dogs (especially dogs who have not built up tough paw pads due to their youth or lack of exposure to surfaces other than those in their homes and grass outdoors) may experience irritation. While walking and running, pea stone can rub in between paw pads, causing redness and irritation. Some dogs may lick their paws to relieve the irritation or may favor an exceptionally sore paw by limping.

### **What should you do if your dog gets sore paws from the pea stone?**

The best thing to do is to clean their paws between the pads with a wet cloth, and apply a triple antibiotic ointment with pain relief (such as Neosporin). This will help to relieve the pain as well as speed the healing. Please be sure to prevent your dog from licking their paws as this will exacerbate the soreness.

### **How can irritation be prevented in the future?**

To prevent or reduce future irritation from the pea stone, a paw wax or balm can be used, subject to your dog's veterinarian's approval. Paw wax is a substance that is applied to the paw pads and in between the paw pads. It provides a protective barrier which reduces irritation cause by rough surfaces such as pea stone. The paw wax often times contains healing properties as well. Various paw waxes or balms are great products to use for winter walks as well as for while playing at TW Locations.

### **Do dogs ingest the pea stone?**

While we cannot guarantee that dogs will not attempt to eat pea stones, we take measures to minimize the risk including careful supervision, alternate play surfaces, indoor play areas, and education and awareness: We educate our staff about the risks associated with pea stones and provide guidance on how to prevent dogs from ingesting them. We actively monitor the pack environment and maintain our play areas regularly; we cannot guarantee that all instances of ingestion can be prevented. Pea stone alone is usually harmless and will usually pass on its own (the dog will either vomit it up or it will pass in the feces). If TW Parties notice a dog exhibiting pea stone eating behavior, their file will be marked and all TW Parties are made aware. TW Parties will also notify pet parents if this behavior develops.

By signing, I acknowledge and understand this Pea Stone Notice.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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