



Pea Stone

TailWaggers Doggy Daycare uses pea stone in its outdoor play areas. Pea stones are small, round stones without sharp or rough edges. Pea stone is an excellent 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 easily seen and promptly picked up. This allows us to keep the outdoor areas free of waste so dogs are not running and stepping in it while playing.

The majority of dogs have no issues running and playing on pea gravel. 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 gravel 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. Discourage your dog from licking 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. 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. TailWaggers Doggy Daycare recommends *Musher's Secret*, a paw wax used for dogs whose feet are exposed to snow and ice or rough ground encountered while hunting. (Musher's Secret is a great product to use for winter walks as well as while playing at TailWaggers).

Signature _____

Date _____