

## Spring Seasonal Tips: Keep your dog safe and parasite free



**Outdoor time with your dog:** The warmer temperatures in the spring months mean spending more time outdoors for dog owners and dogs alike. Check your dog's collar for snugness (two fingers) and confirm that your dog's tags are readable and contain your current contact information. Did you remember to license your dog?

If you have a fenced in yard, take time to walk the perimeter and check for broken segments of fencing, branches/limbs that may have come down on top of fencing and areas where the frost may have lifted a section of fencing.

**Grooming:** With the arrival of spring, you may have also noticed an arrival of dog fur accumulating in your home on furniture, carpets/rugs, and floor corners and in your vehicle. To address springtime shedding, give your dog a good thorough brushing to loosen dead fur and skin dander. Grooming is a great time to bond with your dog. It allows you the chance to observe any changes in skin conditions, irritations, warts/growths or parasites. Follow up your spring grooming with a warm lather bath. Wash your dog's collar and leash - your dog will appreciate it!



**Parasite Prevention:** The spring season also means the return of fleas and other parasites. Start by taking preventative measures by giving your dog's bedding and blankets a good washing. When vacuuming your home, remember to empty and clean out your vacuum frequently. Fleas and flea larvae can live and hatch in your vacuum bags. Tapeworms are contracted by fleas, and roundworms and hookworms are contracted easily too. Outside you can remove excess debris and leaf litter in your back yard. Consider a holistic approach for parasite prevention and treatment or talk to your veterinarian about the best options for you and your dog.

**Allergies:** Dogs can acquire seasonal allergies just like we do. Allergies to tree pollen, dust and mold can cause your dog to sneeze, cough and have increased itching. If you suspect that your dog has allergies, contact your veterinarian.

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