



## Our Approach to Your Dog's Health and Well Being

These days, our dogs' get out and about just as much as we do, if not more! They go for car rides, tag along to run errands, join in on a Lowe's trip, beg for a quick play stop at a dog park, and look forward to retail therapy at a pet boutique to pick out a new toy. It's safe to say, our dogs are not the 'stay at home and wait by the door' kinda canines. They like to be with their people! All dog parents should understand that there is an inherent risk when exposing your dog to other dogs and environments. Many illnesses that affect our dogs' health are most often picked up in places we take our dogs. Dogs are unwittingly exposed to illnesses at dog parks, while on walks, in pet stores, at the groomers, and even during vet visits.

However, pet parents should also take comfort in knowing that the benefits and rewards of bonding with your dog, socialization, mental stimulation, and exercise in doggie daycare certainly outweigh those risks.

At Bow chika Wow Town, we are very aware that you are entrusting us with a treasured member of your family. We are honored that you have chosen us to care for your dog and take caring for their health and well-being very seriously.

**Our approach to minimizing infectious diseases is multi-faceted with strict eligibility requirements and rigorous sanitation practices.**

### Eligibility Requirements

- **Use of the Indoor Dog Park & Self Wash Station:**
  - Proof of up to date Rabies, Distemper, & Bordetella vaccinations must be shown before entrance is granted to use these services.
  
- **Use of Daycare & Overnight Boarding (as well as evaluations for these services):**
  - In addition to proof of up to date Rabies, Distemper, & Bordetella vaccinations, dogs must be able to show a negative fecal test result, including the Giardia panel. The negative fecal test result must be confirmed within one month of using these services and your dog's stool must be retested every six months thereafter.
  - We will not knowingly accept a dog showing any signs of illness. The health and well-being of your dog is our top priority. We will always keep our pet parents informed of signs or symptoms of illness if presented by a dog while in our care.
  - We closely monitor all dog behaviors and maintain a daily log where our team communicates any changes in health or well-being.



## Sanitation Practices

Even with the most stringent sanitation procedures in place, illnesses can and do occur. We keep a pulse on animal health news in our communities, check in with local vets for reported illnesses updates, and even reach out to the state veterinarian for information or suggestions on how to best combat new strains of diseases. RI's State Vet says he expects that daycare facilities will encounter illnesses, "We don't necessarily view the presence of a disease in a boarding facility as a sign of improper management of that facility. There is no way to absolutely stop all infectious diseases."

We use the following equipment and cleaner to keep germs at bay and maintain cleanliness:

- ***WSYIWASH Disinfectant***- Wysiwash deodorizes as it disinfects—making it the perfect solution for animal-care applications. It is pet safe, non-toxic and eco-friendly. The active ingredients in wysiwash have been shown in numerous tests to be effective against: Distemper, Coronavirus, Giardia, Leptospira, Listeria, Canine Parvovirus, MRSA, E. Coli, Salmonella, Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), Streptococcus, and Staphylococcus.
- ***EfferSan*** - EfferSan packs a punch when it comes to sanitizing and disinfecting, but has far greater benefits than a bleach alternative. For starters, it's mild, non-irritating, and highly effective in eliminating and controlling odors. Unlike bleach and other harsh cleaning chemicals, **EfferSan has a neutral pH** desirable for animal and user safety. We use EfferSan for spot cleaning play areas and our boarding suites.
- ***Air Oasis 5000 & Austin Healthmate Plus Jr*** – These two top of the line purifiers are ideal for animal clinics, veterinarian hospitals, breeders, animal rescue shelters, boarding facilities and pet stores with odors, infectious disease vulnerability and needs for sanitized treatment and isolation rooms. They quickly and effectively reduce carbon-based contaminants, including mold, bacteria, viruses, odors, chemicals and volatile organic compounds, dander, pollen and other aeroallergens, providing fresh, clean smelling air.
- ***The Wave Central Vacuum System***- The Wave is a wet/dry vacuum system that reduces bacteria and germs by completely removing contaminants from the area while cleaning the surfaces. This is a much more reliable, healthier, and overall improved alternative to using mops and buckets that re- distribute allergens and germs throughout the indoor play space.



## Common Health Issues for the Socially Active Dog

- **Canine Cough (aka Kennel Cough)**

- *How does it spread? Very Easily!*

- Canine cough is common, contagious and inconvenient, but very rarely fatal. It is caused by bacteria and/or viruses that spread among dogs by air, water bowls, or hands. It is analogous to the common cold in a child daycare center. Vaccinated, healthy dogs can develop mild if any signs after exposure to new dogs. Similar to the human flu shot, the Bordetella (kennel cough) vaccination reduces the risk of contracting the illness, but there many strains for which it will not offer protection.

- **Symptoms**

- If your dog develops a hacking cough, a cough that sounds like your dog is continually trying to clear an obstruction, discharge from eyes and nose, lethargy or loss of appetite, please keep your dog home and call your vet.

- **Treatment**

- Talk to your vet if you have concerns. With the administration of antibiotics, your dog is usually okay to return to daycare 5 days after the symptoms abate. After seeing your vet, the best thing you can do for a dog with kennel cough is provide them with a warm, stress free home.

- **Giardia**

- *How does it spread? Contaminated water and feces*

- Giardia is a parasite with the potential to cause serious injury. Some dogs are carriers who show no symptoms, but others get sick and need treatment. Your dog can be exposed to Giardia at streams, beaches, lakes, puddles, ponds and areas polluted with feces.

- **Symptoms**

- Giardia is an intestinal infection and can interfere with the absorption of food and produce feces that are soft, light colored, and greasy. Once the cysts are ingested, they open and discharge the parasite which then moves through the intestines. If the dog is healthy, the parasite may live in the lower digestive track for years. A common symptom of intestinal infection is diarrhea.

- **Treatment**

- Examination of the feces is necessary to determine the presence of Giardia. If your dog exhibits symptoms of Giardia, call your vet for suggested treatment options. Before returning to a daycare facility, you should be asked to present a negative fecal test to show the parasite is no longer present. Be sure to wash hands after removing feces from yards and babies and toddlers should be kept away from dogs that have diarrhea, as Giardia is zoonotic and can infect people.



- ***Ticks & Fleas***

- Fleas and ticks are not only a problem because they can spread from dog to dog, but they are also a health issue. They transmit diseases and parasites when they bite your dog. Please check your dog daily, especially if you have been somewhere where your dog could have picked them up. All dogs should be on flea/tick prevention. To mitigate the risk of an infestation, we do not allow outside bedding in the facility. We provide very comfortable cots for any guest who would like one.