



We, at Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, LLC, are very proud of our LARGE (largest in the area!) social play areas for dogs. We know that you, and your pet, will be happy with these areas for both exercise and socialization with our staff members and other doggie guests.

As you may have, or not have, noticed we have pea gravel (tiny, smooth bits of gravel) in the indoor and part of the outdoor play areas. At Wagg Inn Pet Hotel we choose to use pea gravel over cement, artificial turf and/or rocks, because we feel it is easier and better on your dogs nails and joints. It is also an easy surface to clean and keep sanitary. The pea gravel is not sharp and will not cut the pads, however it may be awkward to walk on at first if your pet is not used to it or if your dog has sensitivity to his/her paws.

Most dogs that come to Wagg Inn Pet Hotel for daycare and/or boarding are house pets and are used to walking on surfaces such as carpet, tile, vinyl, grass and/or dirt. The pads on these dog's feet are typically soft and tender, due to the soft surfaces they are used to. The pea gravel that we use on our play areas may affect your pet's pads during their first few visits. The pads may become tender, red and/or irritated. In most cases there are not open wounds, yet open wound(s) can happen. Your dog may walk gingerly and will tend to lick his/her pads if they become irritated. This licking that your dog may do, will make the pads significantly worse; you will want to encourage your pet to stop licking at all times. Keep the pads clean & dry, when possible.

What happens to the pads is similar to us wearing a new pair of shoes. Our feet are not used to these new shoes and we may get sore feet and/or a blister, until our feet are used to them or the new shoes are broken in. With more use, these areas of the skin will toughen up. An additional example is weightlifting. The first time you lift heavy weights your hands may become sore, but with repeated exposure those areas will toughen.

I have spoken with a local veterinarian on this potential concern and I received a positive response that this is normal and not to be a concern (unless there are open wounds, there then may be a risk for infection). With repeated & routine exposure, the pads will toughen and should not become irritated from walking, running and/or playing on the pea gravel.

All of us at Wagg Inn Pet Hotel aim to please each of our guests (human and non-human), therefore would like to make you aware of the possibility of tender, irritated and/or wounded pads. We certainly do what we can to prevent your pet from becoming sore, but some of this is beyond our control.

Please feel free to address an experienced staff member with any questions!

Happy Playing,

Sara VandenLangenberg, Owner
Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, LLC