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When given a tour of Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, LLC you were introduced to the indoor and outdoor play areas. We are very proud of our *LARGE SOCIAL* play areas (both indoor and outdoor) for the dogs. We know that both you and your pet will be happy with these areas for both exercise and socialization with our staff members and the other dogs.

As you have seen, we have pea gravel (tiny, smoothed bits of gravel) in the indoor and part of the outdoor play areas. At Wagg Inn we chose to use pea gravel over cement because it is easier/better on the dogs nails and joints. The gravel is not sharp and will not cut the pads, however it is awkward to walk on at first if the dogs are not used to it.

Most of the dogs that come into Wagg Inn for daycare and/or boarding are house pets and are used to walking on surfaces such as carpet, tile and/or vinyl. The pads on the dogs feet are usually soft and tender due to the soft surfaces they are used to. The pea gravel that we use in our social play areas may affect your pets pad during their first few visits. The pads may be a little tender, red and/or irritated. In most cases there are not open wounds but, just so you are aware a case of an open wound may be found. The dogs may walk gingerly and will tend to lick at the pads if they get irritated.

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 a blister until our feet are used to them or the shoes are broken in. With more use, those areas of the skin will toughen up. Another example is weightlifting. The first time you lift heavy weights your hands will get sore but with repeated exposure that area will toughen.

I have spoken with local veterinarians on this issue and they responded that this is normal and not to be a concern. *(If there are open wounds there may be concern for infection)* With repeated exposure, the pads will toughen and should not get irritated from walking on the gravel.

All of us at Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, LLC like to please each and every one of our clients and therefore would like to make you aware of this before you drop off your pet. If you do have any concerns please let us know so we can explore alternative options such as keeping your pet in the smaller indoor play area (by gift shop) or in the Cuddle Care Room.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please let me know!!

Thank you,

Sara Bonk  
Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, LLC