

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

For most of us in the Northwoods, we talk about raking leaves in the fall. Those of us with dogs talk about cleaning up the yard in the spring. With all the many snowfalls we have had, my guess is that we will do the cleanup in layers. My dogs are really looking forward to seeing grass. Right now the snow surface is so icy, that I worry about them hurting themselves.

With warmer weather on the horizon, now is the perfect time to ensure our fur family is ready to enjoy romps in the great outdoors! Here's a list of quick ways to prepare your four-legged friend for spring!

Schedule an Annual Health Exam. If you haven't done so already, an annual health exam is the perfect way to ensure your pet is in optimum health to enjoy warmer weather. Like physicals for humans, annual health exams look at the key indicators of health and help you formulate a plan for the long-term health of your pet. To help you access the consistent care your pet needs to enjoy years of health and happiness, Companion Protect® is proud to offer covered annual medical exams for pets seven and younger and two a year for pets eight and older.

Wash Toys and Bedding. Several months cooped up in the house can result in smelly, dirty beds and toys. Throw your pet's easy-to-clean items in the wash to get rid of unwanted odors, improve the look of your home's interior, and give your furry friend's favorite items a new lease on life.

Book a Day at the Groomers. Depending on the species and breed of your pet, winter fur can get long and dirty during the colder months. Even if your furry friend has long hair year-round, a groomer can remove old, clumped hair that's tangled and gross. Additionally, grooming helps to remove recently shed hair that can spread to furniture and cause allergy issues to other pets and your human family!

Flea and Tick Prevention. In addition to threatening the health and wellbeing of your pet, fleas and ticks can also invade your home. Treating your four-legged friend for pests before warm weather will set them – and your home – up for flea- and tick-free fun outdoors! If you don't already have flea and tick medication, visit your local vet to learn more about the medication that's right for your pet!

Stay Current on Heartworm Meds. With spring showers come puddles. And with puddles come mosquitos! To guard your pet against life-threatening heart worms, keep preventive meds up-to-date before warm weather arrives! Additionally, consider addressing areas of your yard that can act as mosquito breeding grounds. Removing unwanted items that collect stagnant water and filling holes left by ice and snow will help to reduce mosquito growth during spring and summer.

Give Your Pet Some Exercise. To prepare for springtime and the active summer months, spend extra time playing with your pet. This can be around-the-house play or additional time outdoors if you live near a dog park or have a backyard. Extra exercise will help your pet adjust to the

extra fun that comes with warm weather! This is especially helpful with older pets who may need time to feel up to rambunctious play.

Prepare for the Hot Months. While your pet may enjoy the extra time outside during the warmer months, it's also important to ensure they're safe during elevated temperatures. Updating dog or cat houses, adding sun breaks, and cool fresh water is key to ensure your fur family can cool down during their spring and summer fun!

Warm weather is the best time to enjoy life with your furry family! By dedicating a few hours to preparing for the fun ahead, you can ensure your spring and summer is spent making lasting memories with your four-legged friend. These tips were written by Wilson Weaver for Companion Protect and Coverage.

Dates to Save:

April 22 – Spay-ghetti and No Balls – 5 – 8 p.m. – Hayward Vet Center

April 26 & May 10 – Bingo at Powels on Round Lake – 5:30 pm.

May 26 – Dining for Cats and Dogs – 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering

June 15 – Art For Animals – 6:30 – 9 a.m. – Flat Creek Inn