

Have you DONE your survey?

Nov 28 is your last day to be heard

Winter 2011

Letter from the President

I come from a long line of finger-waggers. If you don't have finger-waggers in your family, I should tell you that finger-wagging and tail-wagging are different.

Tail-wagging expresses sentiments like "I am SO happy you are home," "I LOVE rawhide," and "Dog PAAAARK."

Finger-wagging, on the other hand, conveys thoughts like, "This is your last warning, missy," and "Don't test me, buster."

It's important to know that even finger-waggers are kind people. Please remember this as I dedicate the rest of my space here to (gently) wagging my finger at you.

A few reminders

- Please **pick up** your dog's business.
- Rring plastic bags to help ensure that others pick up their dogs' business, too. (I see more people every week carrying their reusable bags into the supermarket. That's great, but it makes it more important that we all contribute the few plastic bags we may have at home.)
- Make sure the **gate locks** behind you as you come and go. This one small thing could save us from disaster, seriously.
- **Report problems.** Board members have heard rumbles of a few unpleasant moments in the park. If there is a situation that makes you uncomfortable or a dog that consistently raises the hackles of other dogs, tell us. We won't convene a jury; we'll just take note. Send an email to incident.swcitydogpark@gmail.com. This is also the email address to report more serious incidents like bites and fights.
- **Take the survey!** A handful of people gather each month to make decisions on behalf of 360 people. We want to make decisions that reflect your opinions. Tell us what you think! The deadline to participate is November 28. The link to the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWCityDogParkSurvey

When you finish the survey, be sure to press the "done" button. The survey isn't submitted until you scroll to the bottom of that last page and click on the button that sends it away.

Happy holidays to you all.

Here's hoping for a season big on tail wags and short on finger wags.

— Kristi (Max) President, Southwest City Dog Park

<u>Slogan contest</u>

Win a free dog park membership!

When you reach the end of the survey, you can unleash your creative side by writing a slogan for the dog park. The slogan will be used with our logo and should capture the essense of the dog park experience.

The member whose slogan is selected will win a free dog park membership for next season (for one dog).

Please submit a short concise phrase that reflects either the essense of the dog park or what the dog park represents to you.

Fill out the survey & enter the contest today!

Mayflower dogs



The only known animals brought on the Mayflower were two dogs, a mastiff and an English spaniel, primarily for hunting. It is possible chickens or pigs were also brought. The first goats, cattle, and oxen did not begin arriving at Plymouth until several years later, and horses were not to be seen for several more years.

For more information on the pilgrims' provisions www.mayflowerhistory.com/History/ voyage6.php





Rover Reporter sez donut forget 2 fill owt da servay!



























The trees in the dog park (pictured at top of page) are Eastern Cottonwoods and Red Maples.

Pawsitively Fintastic



Tim and his dog Chloe stop in for a visit; owner Beth Schroeder adjusts Chloe's collar.

A new pet shop for supplies and services has opened at Eichelberger and January in the Southampton neighborhood. More than just a shop, Pawsitively Fintastic is also designed to be a neighborhood spot for events, training, visiting, and information.

Dog walking, in-home pet sitting, pet food delivery, self-service dog washes, and dog training classes are among the services offered.

Owner Beth Schroeder and her husband live in the Southampton neighborhood, and are looking forward to being a community spot for pet owners.

The shop hosted a Halloween Hootinanny last month with punch, snacks, prizes for costumes, and surprise drawings. A pet psychic was there to read your pet's mind!

Visit them on Facebook (www.facebook. com/PawsitivelyFintastic) or at their shop at 5600 Eichelberger.

HOURS

Tue-Fri 10am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm Sun 10am-4pm • Closed Mon

Secretary's Corner

Here we are into November. Holidays are just around the corner. My family got an early present. We have an addition to our pack. Biscuit (Bisky) is a 6-month-old Golden. She has been down to the park and loves it.

The applications have been pouring in. We have lots of new members this year. So far we have 111 new family additions to the park. Please make all of our new members feel welcome.

Membership Statistics

We currently have 360 families with 502 dogs.

309 families are St. Louis City residents, of which 28 are SNA members. The remaining 51 families are all St. Louis County residents.

If anyone was wondering, the most prevalent breed at the park is Labrador Retrievers and Lab mixes. There are 98 Lab or Lab mixes registered at the park. That's almost 1/5 of our pup population. There are 39 Boxer/Boxer mixes and 23 Golden Retriever/Golden mixes.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

— Joan (Rusty, Casey & Biscuit) Secretary, Southwest City Dog Park

Meet & Greet



Glacier is a white husky, almost two years old. He is such a lover of people and other dogs! He is very playful and full of energy. He runs, jumps and hops all around the park with his buddies. He also is a talker – he "talks" to people all the time!



Our Volunteers

PRESIDENT

Kristi (Max)

VICE-PRESIDENT

Judi (Willow)

TREASURER

Hillary (Artemis & Rosco)

SECRETARY

Joan (Rusty, Casey & Biscuit)

LANDSCAPING

Jane (Rosie, Abigail & Jack) Co-Chair vacant

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (vacant)

INCIDENT

Mindy (Milo) • Judy (Cather) Mary (Riki, Tristen & Jazz)

NEWSLETTER

Nancy • Patricia (Mocha)

If you would like to volunteer for a board position or committee, please email Joan at

secretary.swdogpark@gmail.org

Please send any comments or suggestions about the newsletter to Nancy at

kentgraphics@att.net

<u>Get ready for winter</u>

We're having nice autumn days right now...but we all know winter weather is coming! Some reminders and tips for the colder months ahead:

- 1 Outdoor dogs will burn more calories (up to 30%) and need extra food. Make sure that you are feeding additional rations during cold temperatures.
- Reep your pet on a leash in cold weather more dogs are lost in the winter than in any other season. Unleashed dogs may also run onto partially frozen bodies of water.
- If you normally have your pet's fur clipped or shaved, keep the length longer in winter to keep your dog warm.
- 4 Nails may require more frequent trimming since your dog is spending more time indoor on soft surfaces.
- Salt and ice-melters can act as a skin irritant. Make sure to wash your pet's feet off after coming indoors. Dogs with long fur and/or short legs should have their stomach areas cleaned off as well.

Blake's human built these nifty shelters last year.

- 6 Dogs with short coats or low body fat (Chihuahuas, Greyhounds, Miniature Pinschers, etc.) will benefit from a waterresistant sweater or coat when outdoor temperatures drop.
- **7** Boots are a good way to protect feet and pads from salt and chafing.
- 8 If you bathe your dog at home, make sure he is completely dry before going out. You may even want to switch to a waterless shampoo for the winter.
- **9** Examine the pads of your dog's feet for signs of cracking or irritation. A pet-specific foot balm will help condition the pads.
- Limit the duration of your outdoor trips to minimize chance of frostbite or hypothermia.
- Don't let your dog eat snow.

 The snow may cause stomach
 upset or there may be hidden
 objects in the snow.

For more information, check out the Association of Pet Dog Trainers' website www.apdt.com/petowners/tips/ safety/safety_winter.aspx





CeeCee models her designer wardrobe.



Stella shows off her custom sweater.



Sisters Angel & Sidney have matching outfits.

Walk a mile at the dog park

There are 5280 feet in a mile. The large-dog section of the park is 521 feet long. So walk the length 10 times (keeping an eye on your dog), and you've racked up nearly a mile!

For bonus points, carry a bag or two with you to pick up any piles you happen to see.



DONE?

It ain't over until you press the DONE button!

Fill out the dog park survey today! Enter the Slogan Contest!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ SWCityDogParkSurvey

We want to hear your opinions today!



Survey is now open

Link to Survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWCityDogParkSurvey

Have we heard from you yet?

You should have received this link, via a direct email from the Board. If you did not, and would like to receive the electronic link, please send a request to our Secretary, Joan, at secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com

If you do not have access to a computer, we can send you a paper version – just let us know.



The survey covers a variety of proposed member activities and improved communications, park hardscape upgrades, turf management improvements, as well as developing stronger member demographics and 2-Legged and 4-Legged interests.

We want to hear from YOU

Your participation – offering your suggestions and investing time in the dog park – is a great way to contribute to the continued success for our park.



Member Contest

Help us create a tag line for our dog park

At the end of the Member Survey, you will be asked to suggest a slogan for the dog park.

Winner will receive a one year membership (one dog) for next season.