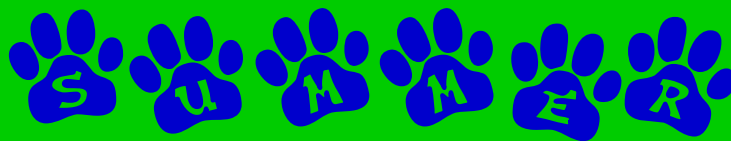




Newsletter

Bye Bye



2015

President's Message

Let's enjoy the last of our green dog park while we have it; we are fast approaching our "brown phase". Members who have been around for previous seasons know what I mean. New members – get ready for the straw!

Our **Puppy Pool Party** was a huge success; be sure to check out the photos at the end of this newsletter. It's hard to believe, but as the newsletter is being distributed, we are already busy planning the next event - our Fall Celebration and Halloween Party, to be held on November 1. See **Batty For Bats** on pg 3 and inspiration on pg 4.

There are some things that I know for absolute certainty. 1) Our members love Southwest City Dog Park and many come almost every day. 2) We have a fantastic dog park community, many members have forged friendships – and for the most part – dogs and people get along great. 3. The annual fee is a really good deal and worth every penny considering the abundance of exercise, fun and learning opportunities provided. **Do you agree?**

This newsletter is primarily a combination of educational topics related to dog language, behavior and play style – and in response to many member questions, comments, or in some cases, formal incident reports. Nothing has been selected randomly. We hope the information will be helpful to both new as well as returning members – and that you pick up a few useful tips along the way.

Our current management track is on schedule but there is still much to do, especially with the 10 Year Anniversary coming and the upgrades planned. Please read more about our needs for volunteers and donations on page 12. If you can help, contact me directly, or select tasks at our volunteer sign up page.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDPvolunteersignup

We're working on a list of good trainers, groomers,

Continued on page 9



Willow
Dobie Girl



It Was Grand!

In the spirit of what is possible....

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Fun photos of Puppy Pool Party
at end of newsletter!

Here Comes M o r e

We are always looking for fresh ideas and new fun



40" Soccer Ball



Stop by to give it a twirl

Our new soccer ball debuted at the Puppy Pool Party on September 12 and will return for the Halloween Party and Fall Celebration on November 1.

In an effort to keep our new ball in reasonable condition, and prolong it's life – we will bring it to the playground on random occasions for play sessions throughout the season, but will not leave it on the grounds – the play must be supervised at all times.



Tether Ball – Coming Soon

Our Tether Ball game will debut at the Fall Celebration and Halloween Party (11/1); a Tether Ball Station will be installed later in November. The game site will be next to the Agility Course so that it is out of the way of our runners and ball & frisbee players. Because this game requires human supervision at all times, there will be a temp fence around the small area to control the action but it will remain up, those interested can play anytime.

Think BIG!

A jumbo rope (27inches)
& 3 others are scattered
around the playground
Lots of tugging fun!

Ropes



New Agility Equipment

Plans are still in the works for a dog walk and a tire jump for the agility course. We opted to do the tether and soccer balls first – to provide more variety for more members – but we should get these additions within this season.

Giant Tug Rope

A gift from the winners at our We Luv Our Volunteer Party – this big tug will debut at Puppy Pool Party and then remain on the playground.

*A certain amount of routine may be a good thing ...
But nobody likes the same old thing day in and day out*



Batty for Bats

This years theme for our annual Fall Celebration and Halloween Party



**Sunday
November 1**

10:00 – 4:00

Start thinking about a costume for your 4-Legged

**Cupcake Contest for humans
Costume Contest for canines
Prizes and Treats and Games**

Last year, Willow came as Princess Girly Girl – she said it was worth the prep because she got loads of treats and never ending attention, hugs & kisses.



Bobbing for Hotdogs



**Peanut Butter
Licking Contest**



**Snack
Tent
For Humans**



Find Treat Course



Tether Ball

Will debut in special game area – a ball players delight
Soccer Ball
40 inch ball will be rolling around the party

Straw Climbing Maze

**Watch for party
email & flyer for
more details**

And Lots of Silly Fun



Need a Little Inspiration?

Check out previous winners . . .

2014 Costume Winners



1st Place

Biker Dog

(Maggie)
Melissa & Andrew K



2nd Place

Lion

(Moby)
Ali P & Chris W

3rd Place

Business Man

(Toby)
Laurie B & Michelle R



2013 Costume Winners



1st Place

Lion
(Coach)
Lynn W



2nd Place

Yoda

(Brody)
Jennifer P & Ben H

3rd Place

Ava Gardner

(Beatrice)
Donna T



Photo Booth



Get Creative

Whether you opt for a store bought, hand made or hand-me-down costume...

Let's Have Some Fun!

2014 Cupcake Winners



1st Place

Owl Cakes

Chocolate cupcakes
With vanilla frosting,
Oreo and M&M owl
Decorations
Kim M (Roger)



2nd Place

Puppy Cakes

Pumpkin, ginger
cupcake with cream cheese
frosting, raisin faces,
sugared ginger ears
Sandi L (Sofee)



3rd Place

Cauldron Cakes

Chocolate cupcakes filled
with chocolate mousse,
rimmed with chocolate
fudge frosting and
garnished with white
chocolate shavings.
Elena K (Molly)

Donations Needed



Decorations: anything bat related (get to us before the event)

Gifts: items or gift certificates for goods or services enjoyed by 2 or 4 Leggeds – to be used as door prizes or contest gifts (Retail Value between \$1.00-\$50.00)

Cash: to help offset cost of event

Pop Up Tents

We need to borrow 2-3 tents to better define our game & treat stations

Volunteers Needed

Need lots of help – both with planning and decorating as well as helping run a booth or game or info table; take photos, general supervision, and more.

Contact Judi if you can help

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

The Biergarten At Anheuser Busch

12th and Lynch Street,
St. Louis, MO 63118
(314) 577-2626



Yappy Hour at Biergarten Wednesday – Sept 30 4:00 to 8:00pm

No cover charge, free dog biscuit and beer specials. Come with or without a 4-Legged.

Last One For This Season

Food Truck Friday In Tower Grove Park

Bring your 4-Leggeds (*on leash*) and blankets, bag chairs, or other picnic gear and settle in for an evening of relaxing and enjoying the free music and wide assortment of foods. Most foods range from \$4-10 – and wine / beer/ soft drinks and desserts, too. You can also bring your own cooler.

October 2 3:30 – 7:00



Canine Carnival



Presented by the



**Sunday
October 4
11 – 3**

Tilles Park
9551 Litzinger Road

Dog games & prizes, children's activities, raffles, vendor booths, food trucks, beer and more!

Contests: Best Costume, Best Kisser, Best Trick. First place winners will receive a basket full of Purina products, valued at over \$150!

**19th
ANNUAL**



**St. Louis
CANINE GAMES**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015
8 AM – 4 PM**

AT PURINA FARMS

**NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!
ALL PUREBRED AND MIXED BREEDS DOGS WELCOME.**

That's right—any dog can do it!

Events are beginner-level and non-competitive.

- Choose the activities you and your dog want to participate in on the day of the event
- Earn special certificates for some events; awards for trying at least 4 events
- Regular tickets are good for any regular event

\$5 PER ACTIVITY*

Registration takes place the day of the event starting at 8a.m.
LEARN MORE AT WWW.PURINAFARMS.COM.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

Agility • Flyball • Dog Park • Flying Disc • Lure Coursing • Harness Events
K9 Nosework • Barn Hunt • Rescue Parade (12:30 PM) • Vendors/Raffle • Race the Wind
Canine Einstein • Rally Obedience • Canine Good Citizen • Costume Contest (11:30 AM)

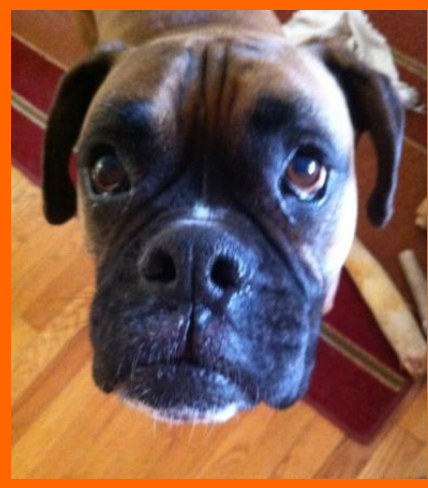
NEW FOR 2015: 4K Dog-Friendly Walk (8:30a.m. – 9:30a.m.)

SPONSORED BY:



*CDC testing is \$4

Rainbow Bridge



Captain, the Charmer

Captain was already 5+ years old when he moved in with Bill W and Calvin. His previous owners were moving, and way too quick to leave Captain behind – they even forgot his favorite toy. Luckily, Bill immediately saw Captain's charm – and after awhile, Calvin agreed. Getting to know Captain, as many dog park members were fortunate to do, it is hard to understand why those "other humans" were so quick to let him go. Captain & Calvin formed a bond, they snuggled on the couch together, dragged Bill around on neighborhood walks – and were daily visitors to Southwest City Dog Park. Calvin loved the dog park – his very favorite thing to do.



Captain developed cancerous tumors in 2014 and had several removed. The surgery was considered a success but apparently after that time, not known to Bill or the Vet, troubles continued to develop. In March 2015, as dog park members were enjoying the last few days of the season, Captain & Calvin arrived for their daily SWCDP visit. Everyone thought this to be just another normal day.

Bill shared that Captain seemed a bit lethargic that morning but Bill thought Captain might have had a tummy ache from the steak snack from the prior evening. Being the "tough s.o.b." that he was, Bill said Captain hopped in the car for the ride to his favorite place - the dog park. Within minutes, however, Captain collapsed on the playground; Bill W & Bill A grabbed a piece of agility equipment to use as a stretcher – and got Captain to the car for a quick trip to their Vet's office. X-rays showed a tumor mass in Captain's abdomen and chest. The

A lot of good memories and pictures... but Captain running along the fence at the dog park, chasing joggers and bikers, face full of slobber, are some of Bill's best memories. Oh, and how Captain loved to be petted, especially by the ladies!

one in the abdomen caused his spleen to rupture. The Vet said there was nothing they could really do. So Bill's parents came down to say goodbye. They had a couple of hours with him – Captain got a lot of pets and kisses. Despite his condition, if you stopped petting him, Captain would still look up like "What the hell?" – so the humans kept cuddling Captain until the Vet returned to give the final shots.

As he was about to administer them, Captain stood up and shook off. He hadn't stood in hours by this point, everyone was stunned. The Vet suggested getting more tests – just to be sure. So off they went to VSS (Veterinary Specialty Services) for a

second opinion. Captain was able to jump into the car one last time but by the time they got to VSS, he couldn't get up and Captain was stretched into the hospital. They confirmed the internal bleeding. At that point his paws were cold to the touch and he wasn't drooling anymore. It was time. So, goodbyes were given a second time; he went peacefully. Captain was 8 and half when he passed, almost three years to the day he moved in with Bill and Calvin.



SWCDP Members . . .

A Fantastic Doggie Community

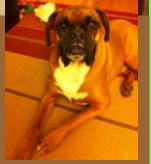


Captain, the Charmer

was captivating people even after he passed away. Kay A, one of Cowboy's humans, had learned of Captain's passing from Cowboy's other human, Bill A – and she decided to put her artistic skills to work. Unbeknownst to Captain's human, Bill W, Kay got busy creating a beautiful portrait of Captain from a photo. When presented to Bill W, he said with a big grin "I love it".



Kay has always had an interest in art – but it wasn't until her kids were grown that she had the time to devote to her craft. With a home studio, Kay spent several years designing and crafting jewelry and creating portraits of pets, people, homes.... mostly from photos. Today, Kay will occasionally accept a commission – but the Captain portrait, done using pastels, was an act of love. Kay shared that she loves all animals. "There is beauty in all Earth's creatures".



Emergency supplies for both humans and canines are in the horizontal storage unit in the fenced area (to the left of Water Station 1). Honor system – please let SAIC know when supplies run low and please do not take anything out of playground area – these tools and supplies are intended for dog park emergency use only.

Dog Park Gear

Wear your shirts & hoodies with SWCDP logo around town to show you are proud member of SWCDP



Next Master Order
to be placed on November 5
Order forms on website &
entry area next to Message Board

SWCDP Stretcher



Captain's collapse on the playground further motivated our safety and emergency upgrades. We had discussed the benefits of having a stretcher in our emergency supplies but not until Captain's troubles did we put the discussion into action. We now own an innovative, portable, pole-free stretcher designed to safely and quickly move injured parties (dogs or people) to appropriate emergency destinations.

The stretcher is currently "in progress" because we are looking into various ways for a permanent identification. At present, we are getting pricing for logo, website and phone to be embroidered or screen printed on the stretcher so that when it leaves the dog park in any emergency situation – we can ensure its return to SWCDP. November is our tentative target date for stretcher to be on site.

Description: Used by the military, the APLS Transport is ideal for emergency transport situations, especially when traditional EMS solutions are not readily available. Constructed with a durable canvas and highly absorbent core, APLS Transport can absorb up to 4.5 liters of fluid while supporting up to 450 pounds, wet or dry. The treated nylon backing also protects against wind and moisture, helping to keep patients warm



Secretary Report

By Joan L (Casey, Bisky, Caika)



This was our first season to request photo of each dog member, as part of the ID process for membership. **72%** of members submitted a photo. Great start!

Remember, next season a dog photo will become mandatory and part of the official application process.

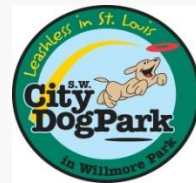
Ongoing thanks to SWCDP original sponsor, Southampton Neighborhood Association. This group & the initial founding members made it possible for SWCDP to open it's doors in 2006. We know many of you enjoyed their annual Macklind Days and we hope SWCDP members will continue to support SNA's community activities. Watch for December Holiday events.



Contractor on Site

**Monday, November 2
10:00 – 3:00**

Hydro Dynamics will be on playground between these times to flush out and close down underground sprinkler system and Water Stations 2,3,4, for the season. Please, keep your dogs on leash or go to Alternate (or go home) while they are working. Service gate may or may not be opened. TBD.



We are wrapping up our fourth month of the 2015-2016 season – and, oh, what a summer it has been. Never, in the dog park's 9 year history, have we had a rainy season like we had this year. As many know, if you were a member in June, our rough season beginning included several days of dog park closure due to intense water saturation. And, add to that, all the behind the scenes work being done administratively – well – let's just say – it's been quite the 120 days.

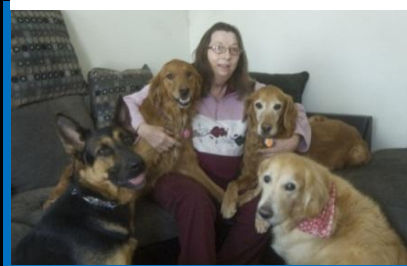
Our management plate is very full right now – we are looking into an on-line application possibility and PayPal capabilities for our 2016-2017 season. We hope by the start of next season, to also have a new gate entry system, likely a swipe card. We shall keep you in the loop as things progress. If any of you have experience with on-line applications, PayPal, or swipe & security systems and would like to help us – feel free to contact me or Judi.

We are pleased to report that today we have 413 households which include 563 dogs. 250 are returning households and 163 are new households. We welcome all.

The largest zip code for member residency continues to be 63109 and most of the balance within less than a 5 mile radius of the park.

We truly have a local community!

Joan's Pack



Caika. Bisky. Casey. Rusty

Till next time

Woof Woof

**SWCDP Secretary
Joan L**

secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com

St Louis Metro Area Dog Park Manager Group



Leadership

SWCDP leadership has taken the initiative to create a local dog park manager organization. We reached out to the City and County Parks Commissioners and dog park managers to determine initial interest in such a group – and the response was very strong. Most of the dog parks in the St Louis Metro area are involved – and we have a few potential start-ups with us, too.

We had our first meeting in July and the next meeting is scheduled for early October. Our goal is to have an ongoing forum in which we can share information, experiences and challenges - and together strengthen our individual dog park management teams, foster improved safety and management processes and upgrade or expand amenities.

By popular demand – our early discussions are focused on dog & human behavior, rules, regulations, membership requirements, and safety. Because SWCDP has been so involved in these areas on behalf of SWCDP, we have led many of these discussions and have shared what we have learned with our peers. In exchange, we continue to gain valuable insight and information from the members which will only enhance our SWCDP operations and help us make the best management decisions for SWCDP.

We are off to an excellent start. Will keep you posted as it relates to SWCDP or other pertinent dog park happenings around town.

Is Your Dog Being A Jerk?



Perhaps your dog gets along great with a select few 4-Leggeds – that's great. But, if he becomes snotty with other dogs, it is up to YOU to quickly manage the situation. Either redirect your dog's energy or take him home for the day. Dogs who bully others or who tend to single out a dog for harassment purposes are not good playmates for our dog park. Go home.

We Do Not Reward Bad Behavior !

Too often the dog who has misbehaved stays on the playground and the dog who has been harassed goes home because his human is concerned for his safety. **This is wrong!** Members must ban together and insist that the dog disrupting the play and park enjoyment by the majority – must go home. **Dog park privileges have been lost for the day.**



President's Message (continued from pg 1)

boarding facilities, favorite dog food, and more. We think having input from our members will enhance the list so we ask each of you to drop by SurveyMonkey to give us your thoughts (see page 10). SWCDP will provide ongoing educational information and from time to time point out training concepts or other ideas – but it is up to you to evaluate and make your own decisions. Trainers may have varying approaches – so find the one (s) that work for you.

There are lots of moving parts to managing your dog park – hundreds of humans with a variety of dog knowledge, experience and points of view . The same could be said for the 4-Leggeds, too. We are challenged to



**Always
Balancing**

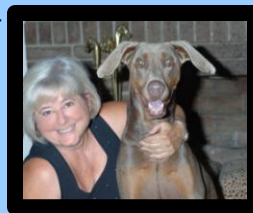
balance individual needs with the good for the group. But to keep our dog park in top notch condition, safe, and fun – rules must be followed. We need SWCDP members to join together in monitoring the playground. It is critically important that all members abide by the rules they agreed to when they signed their application. Since we do not have a paid staff on duty, everyone must pitch in. If you see someone violating the rules – stay calm and cordial – but ask them to adjust what they are doing to the SWCDP rules. Common sense, good judgment, and courtesy go a long way – and we need everyone to use those skills. On the other hand, please do not over react or become helicopter parents – everyone, including your pooch – needs their own space.



Warmest Regards,

Judi & Willow

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



U P C O M I N G
E D U C A T I O N A L
O P P O R T U N I T I E S

**Recognizing Dog Behavior
Understanding Language
Tips for Manners and
Self-Control**

Watch for details about group learning opportunities in 2016. Interested?

Member Survey

Dog Trainers, Groomers, Boarding, Rescue / Adoption Recommendations

Please share your experiences and choices. We will summarize the findings and share with our members in the next newsletter – and also post Dog Trainer and other recommendations on our website. Let's share the knowledge – and expand our resources.



A Quickie!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDPRECOMMEND

Survey Will Be Open Starting Thurs, Oct 1

Important Bits & Pieces



POOP, Yuk!

Nobody likes to step in dog poop – and nobody wants their dog licking poop-paws or bringing poop germs into their car or home. *Right?*

SWCDP rules require each human to pick up their dog's poop. We know this – and yet – sometimes a dog might poop without their human seeing it. So, to keep our playground clean and safe...

Pick up your dog's poop and then pick up one more!

Did You Know . . .

St Louis City Animal Control requires ALL bites to be reported – both humans and pet bites.



Winter Schedule

Nov 2 – Water Stations 1 & 5 remain open for cold weather season

Early Nov – Balance of straw to be delivered. Straw to be scattered around playground, as needed, to sop up muddy areas once we lose the summer turf

Mid-Nov – Winter straw maze (*for doggies*) to be moved from party site and rebuilt in a larger scale as a climbing feature

Mid-Nov – Winter Shelter should be up about a week before Thanksgiving

Mid-Nov – White plastic drink buckets will be replaced with winter-sturdy buckets; white buckets stored until spring

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

Please help keep the bag holders filled – if you see empty holders, fill them
Check Bag Bin (*in entry area*) – when supply gets low – please bring more bags

Keep It Clean Keep It Green

In 2013 we launched our clean & green campaign – committed to keeping our turf green and natural instead of mulch or gravel and making members aware of importance of picking up poop, trash, etc. We also started recycling. Our problem is that sometimes members are dumping poop into the blue cans – This contaminates the process. Please **put the poop in the many gray trash cans** around the playground – and reserve the two blue cans for mixed recyclables: paper, metals, plastic bottles, etc – but no plastic bags in the recycle cans. Thanks

Recycle Cans



During a conversation with St Louis Animal Control recently, we learned that all bites are considered an "offense" and must be reported. Their theory is that if a dog bites once (*even minor*), say to another dog, the behavior may escalate and dog might bite a human next. Quarantine is possible immediately unless proof of current vaccines. Three offenses (*if minor*) are allowed before serious measures are taken, such as having dog euthanized or forbidding dog to leave its residence – no interactions with others, ever. 314/757-2345



Let the other guy do it

If you talk to folks who have led volunteer groups or managed any type of organization that relies on members to pitch in – most will tell you that is usually the same people who volunteer over and over again – until they burn out or move on to another group. We see that at SWCDP, too. We know for certain our members love their dog park – but most seem content to let the “other guy do it”. We would just like to call to your attention, that all the City dog parks, including Southwest City Dog Park, are run solely by the donation of time, energy, and sometimes special skills or talent, of its members.

SWCDP has no paid staff at any level

If you have thought about community service but have not yet made a commitment – why not help out with dog park tasks...this is YOUR community, after all. And we need help.



Check out the variety of tasks in which we need help by visiting on line

SWCDP Volunteer Sign Up Page

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDPvolunteersignup

Missouri Looks Pretty Good, Ranks 15th Nationally

Volunteering and Civic Engagement in Missouri

Trends and Highlights Overview

Overall, in Missouri in 2013:

31.6% of residents volunteer, ranking them 15th among the 50 states and Washington, DC.

1.51 million volunteers

158.6 million hours of service

\$3.6 billion of service contributed

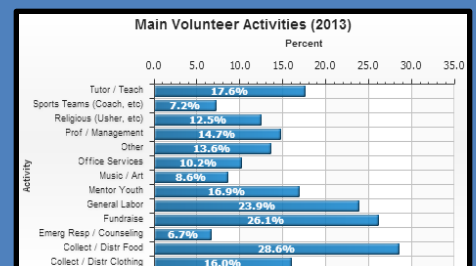
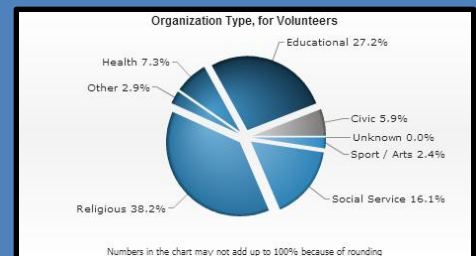
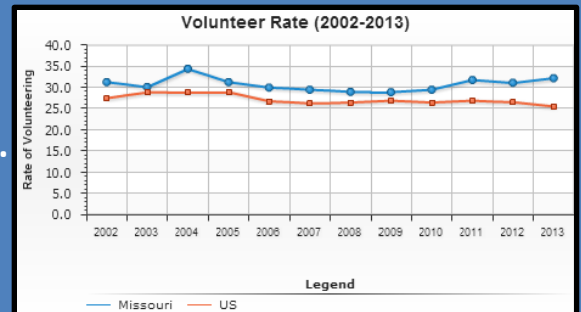
32.9 volunteer hours per capita

62.1% of residents engage in "informal volunteering"
(for example, doing favors for neighbors)

28.1% frequently discuss politics with family or friends

87.9% frequently eat dinner with other members of the household

48.3% frequently talk with neighbors



www.nationalservice.gov/

We Need Help

To Keep Southwest City Dog Park open and operating as a top notch dog park we MUST continue to add volunteer helpers as well as develop future leaders



Will You Raise Your Hand?

Contact Judi directly

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

Check out our needs at
Sign Up Page

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/
SWCDPvolunteersignup](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDPvolunteersignup)

Halloween Party Helpers

Set up & Tear Down
Photography – Photo Booth
Game Supervision
Main Table, Snack Booth

Cash
Always
Welcome

10 Year Anniversary Committee

1st Planning Meeting January 2016

Marketing, public relations, advertising
skills and connections, event planning,
dog games / sports / education, music,
refreshments, safety and organization
details to support the entire event

Need lots of people for this

Donations Needed

Goodie Bag (Range: \$1.00 - 100.00)

Time to refill our supply of gifts & prizes; we need a large variety of items to be used throughout the season as bag stuffers, game or door prizes, gifts, and more. Either a specific item or a gift certificate is great. Think about what you would like to receive –help us contact places that might donate such items.

A Few Ideas

Dinner, wine, tickets to movies, sports, other entertainment, outdoor gear, car services, dog toys, supplies or services,

What else would be fun?

Items Needed

If you have replaced any of these things at your home and have older ones you might like to donate, we'd love to have them

**Shovels & Rakes
Gardening Tools
Umbrella**

(crank-style for table)

Bat Decorations

Borrow For Party
2-3 Pop Up Tents

Free Advertising

Outside sources are motivated to donate cash and goods / services either because they just love dogs or they see benefit in getting free advertising. We don't clutter SWCDP website or communiqués with paid advertising, but, companies who donate goods and services can have their logo and contact info included in the promotional materials as well as event articles and newsletter. The newsletters are posted on our website, and remain for general public viewing indefinitely.

Volunteer Tasks

EVENTS: Social or dog sports; educational and information; **NEWSLETTER:** Around town calendar, writing articles, graphics & layout; **GROUND:** Turf management, gardening, equipment upkeep, special projects ; **SWCDP MERCHANDISE:** Process orders; **ONE-TIME or ON-CALL:** As needed

Technical Help

We need both hands on help & subject matter experts for advice . . .

Computer (website & HTML)

Electrical (upcoming need)

Swipe Card Systems

(researching market now)

Thank You SWCDP Volunteers

On behalf of SWCDP members, we thank every one of you who have helped out during the season – some on an ongoing basis and others as needed for one-time projects. We need all of you.

Special Thanks to Members with Assigned Duties

Bob H (King) – Maintenance, repairs, special projects, large & small

Bill A (Cowboy) – Emptying trash cans (grey)

John B (Mac) – Emptying recycle cans (blue)

Steve S (Cinammon, Gus) – Treasurer & Liaison, Southampton Neighborhood

Joan L (Casey, Bisky, Caika) Secretary, Membership Manager

Judi N (Willow) President, Newsletter

Mary R (Zuma, Wyn) – Manages SWCDP Message Line

Jane S (Bill, Jack, Rosie, Abigail) – Safety and Incident Committee

Micca H (Theia, Clionda) – Safety and Incident Committee

Kay J (Cinammon, Gus) – Safety and Incident Committee & Events

David D (Jeter, Paco, Bella) – Safety and Incident Committee

Jane A (Shadow) – Events

Here's Lookin' at You!



Busy Bodies?

These guys don't miss a thing in their neighborhood. Their human designed special look out points so both dogs could keep up with the comings & goings around their back yard.

Royal Oak, Michigan

(photo went viral recently and the shot got plenty of unplanned notoriety)



WHO is watching YOUR dog ? ? ?

We know – you luv your cell phone – being connected to your friends & keeping up with everything

But, unless you have a second pair of eyes, **while you are texting or web surfing on your cell – your eyes are not on your 4-Legged (s).** A playground for dogs is a very fluid place – the dynamics change constantly – and trouble can break out in just a few seconds. SWCDP Safety and Incident Committee (SAIC) and our general management team have received more than one or two complaints about more than one or two humans who are so busy messing around on their cell phones, that their dogs are not supervised properly. Unsupervised dogs leave poop all over the place. Unsupervised dogs can get into trouble – either causing the ruckus or being the victim. Unsupervised dogs have no one to monitor the ever changing dog interactions. Dogs need humans to monitor and re-direct their energy if the situation appears to be escalating to a bad place. It is easier – and safer – to redirect attention than to break up a fight. Do not let your dog be a play ground bully or nuisance to others. Keep your dog engaged – and keep moving.

SWCDP Strongly Recommends a Technology-Free Experience

While we are not officially banning cell phones, we do point out the benefit of taking a break from technology and the ongoing connectedness that has become the norm for so many of us. If you are a SWCDP member, we know you are a dog lover – so why not use your dog park time to relax and enjoy the outdoors – and your dog? It's entertaining and fun to watch the various personalities and play shenanigans – and while you are laser focused on your pooch – you also stand ready to head off any brawls that might be heating up. We challenge you – can you give up your cell for 30-45 minutes?



Can These Both Be True?

Dogs should be allowed to be dogs
Dogs should have self control & manners

Yikes. What's a human supposed to do? It's confusing, isn't it?

First, you must acknowledge these assumptions: **A)** There are a variety of play styles, including rough & tumble, and some dogs are very vocal. And, some dogs, especially the adolescents, are constantly pushing the envelope. **B)** Your dog will learn a lot on the playground – the other dogs will teach him about proper play etiquette and will put him in his place if he breaks the doggie rules. Don't be helicopter parents by butting in too soon. In most cases, dogs will work out their differences on their own. **Second**, you should invest in your dog. Take the time to learn dog language so that you will recognize the legitimate signs of potential trouble and respond before it escalates. Teach your dog a few basic commands so that above all else – he will come to you when you call – and leave it or stop when you ask

Running the Fence Line – Dogs LUV It



We know – it's fun – it's thrilling – and it is allowed. No rule prohibiting such running. But we want you to know that *every year there is more than one dog bite* as a result of this activity.

When a pack of dogs is running at full speed they are in a highly excited state of mind. And, when they stop for a moment, especially to bark at their target – someone may get annoyed, lash out, and bite one of the pack.



Human judgment and interception may be needed. *Running with the pack*
If pack too large or wound up - divert attention to another activity.

FUN

How Much Fun Is TOO Much Fun?

Consider the front gate, the entry zone, and the gangway. And, then think about the level of excitement your dog exhibits when he approaches the dog park. Some of our dogs literally whine with delight during the drive to the dog park or even mention of it. Then, factor in, the endless curiosity and enthusiasm of the dogs already on the playground.

A worthy discussion: "Our Greeters"

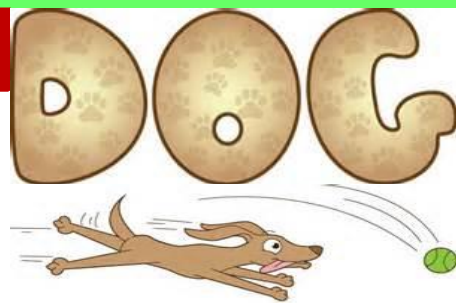
The dogs on the playground have already settled in and formed their play group for the day. When new dogs arrive, the others just stop their play, even from the far end of the playground, and watch the newcomer enter. Other times, they race to the gangway, in a pack usually. Whoo Hoo, a newbie is coming – let's go check him out.

We focus a lot on the happiness of the greeters and often forget to think about how the dog or dogs just arriving feel about being greeted by what sometimes can be described as a pack of bombastic canines. Being cornered, humped, barked at, or simply outnumbered can be intimidating – even for the most social of dogs. How would you like to be forced into a corner with an in-your-face human and be expected to smile while you see no way out? It is unpleasant. We have encountered far too many situations in the gate, entry & gangway areas that may have started out as a hello and went to h-e-l-l in a hurry. And, we have had a few dog bites in these areas this season, too.

So...humans...maybe tap down the enthusiasm a little – give arriving dogs some space and time to get into the swing of things. A little space is a good thing!

Entry Area & Gate: One member should go in or out at a time. Others should wait their turn. Leashes should be removed in the entry area before entering playground. Entry & exit areas are a combination of leashed and unleashed dogs – and this, too, can create problems.

Gangway: This is a judgment call; no two days will ever be the same. If your dog is a "Greeter" you should be right there with him. If greeting pack seems to be overtaking the newbie – it is up to you to get your dog back onto the playground.



With life pulling us in many directions, often competing for our limited energy, time, and resources – we would like to suggest that each of our human members take a brief moment to pat themselves on the back.

Congratulations!

If you are a SWCDP member – it is highly likely that your canine (s) is leading a pretty well-rounded and happy life.

You see, we think our
4-Leggeds are just a bit special
– and spoiled.

A little tongue-in-cheek

SWCDP 4-Legged Definition

Spoiled: A canine of any breed or mix, who has his/her own membership to a private social or sports club or gym (as in dog park) – and who has a personal chauffer or walker available at beck and call to bring such dog (s) to the facility on a regular basis. It is further anticipated that such canine (s) also receives plenty of love, hugs & kisses, good food, treats, & toys, appropriate medical care, safety measures, and other amenities, as such dog (s) requires, requests or demands from his/her human. A "spoiled" dog has his/her human very well trained.





TRASH TALK



It sounds and looks horrible. Canine growling and snapping, curled lips, shiny clenched teeth . . .

We are constantly talking about dog behavior and language – and have learned that most dogs will use these expressions to tell a playmate they have had enough – or don't want to play at all. It's a warning – **Back Off!** Or, a dog may try to correct or scold another dog who is breaking the dog play rules of etiquette. Much like a Mother would do with a pup. “*Pipe down, you little bombast!*”. And in most cases, the other dog “gets it” and they work it out. Only when the other dog ignores these signals is there potential for trouble.

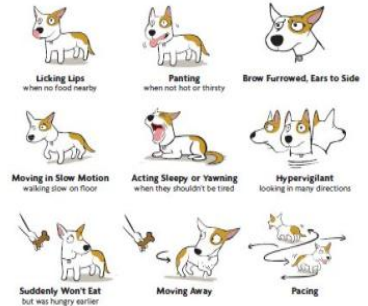
But, what about the **Trash Talkers** and **Thrill Seekers**? A lot of dogs like to be very vocal in their play, the louder the better – they love to hear themselves talk. Sometimes, they use their voice as an intimidation factor or just want to see how far they can go with a playmate. Adolescents, especially, are always pushing the envelope. And we have some dogs who love to be scared – they seek out situations that give them a big thrill. Aaah, danger ahead!

All this means, we doggie parents must be ever vigilant, and realize the situation changes constantly – and rapidly. What worked yesterday might not work today. But please don't be Helicopter parents, don't smother your pup – let him learn from the other 4-Leggeds.

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS | The Art and Science of Animal Behavior | 2005 LISA 1993
www.dogstardaily.com | 10 years in the dog world

Dr. Ian Dunbar's Bite Assessment Scale

Level 1

Dog growls, lunges, snarls but no teeth touch skin. Mostly intimidation behavior.

Level 2

Teeth touch skin but no puncture. May have red mark/minor bruise from dog's head or snout, may have minor scratches from paws/nails. Minor surface abrasions acceptable.

Level 3

Punctures ½ the length of a canine tooth, one to four holes, single bite. No tearing or slashes. Victim not shaken side to side. Bruising.

Level 4

One to four holes from a single bite, one hole deeper than ½ the length of a canine tooth, typically contact/punctures from more than canines only. Black bruising, tears and/or slashing wounds. Dog clamped down and shook or slashed victim.

Level 5

Multiple bites at Level 4 or above. A concerted, repeated attack.

Level 6

Any bite resulting in death

TIP - Test the Trash Talk

Walk your dog away from aggressive dog and see if your dog quickly returns on his own to resume the play. If he does, your dog is diggin' the action. Let them play, but stay ready to step in, if necessary.

GROWLING

The most misunderstood canine cues are vocalizations. Barking and especially growling are nearly always interpreted as threats, and on occasions, they are. But often they aren't. Barking, by its very nature is thought to be the ultimate vacillatory cue, expressed when the dog experiences conflict between two courses of action. For example, barking means: "I want to play... but I don't," "I like you... but I'm not sure," or "Come here... but keep your distance." Once the dog makes up his mind what he wants to do, he generally does it, whereupon he has neither the time nor the inclination to bark.

Growling is more commonly used as a threat. Even so, feeling uneasy in a given situation is by far the most common reason for a dog to growl. Alternatively, growling and maybe soft biting/mouthing may be used as solicitations to play. Growling can be particularly worrying to owners, because often there are no discernible differences between threat-growls, insecure-growls and the dog's vast repertoire of play-growls.

What if you have a lot of difficulty stopping the dog from growling? Are we dealing with a dreaded dominant delinquent dog? — An aggressive cure? — An alpha leader of the pack? Most likely not. **Characteristically, growly and blustery dogs are middle-ranking males, who have limited experience and are insecure of their social standing and so, usually resort to bluff and protracted threats.** Often the dog may growl incessantly to add major emphasis to a minor point. Most overtly aggressive dogs are all bark and no bite. Indeed, a true top dog is a rather cool and relaxed customer, who very rarely resorts to threats of any kind, let alone lengthy blustery bluffs.



Above are excerpts from **Dog Communication** article

You can read the full article at:

<http://www.dogstardaily.com/training/dog-communication>

New Concepts for the Treatment of Dog Aggression: **FIGHTING**



Dog-dog and dog-human aggression appears to be primarily fear-based as so often diagnosed by successful prevention (socialization and classical conditioning) or treatment of existing problems.

Whereas it comes as no surprise that dogs develop predictable behavior problems such as house soiling, chewing, digging and barking — these behaviors are quintessential dog; people are always surprised when later in life, their friendly and socialized puppy becomes shy, standoffish, wary, fearful, reactive and aggressive towards people or other dogs, even though developing fear of the unfamiliar later in life is a normal and adaptive development process. Early (very early) super-socialization and ongoing classical conditioning usually prevent these fears from developing.

Many owners slack off from their pup's intensive socialization program because two-, three- and four-month-old puppies appear to be super-friendly social butterflies. All too often people don't see the point of socializing an apparently well-socialized puppy. But of course their puppy is friendly and sociable, it's a puppy. Unfortunately the effects of insufficient early socialization do not become apparent until later in life. Development follows a natural course; fears and phobias do not usually begin to develop until a dog is five to eight months old and by the time owners realize their adolescent dog has a problem, the Critical Period of Socialization is history.

Whereas treatment protocols are virtually identical to prevention protocols (classical and operant conditioning, progressive desensitization and socialization), they are more complicated, take much (much) longer and sometimes, are not without danger.

For example, whereas problems of fearfulness or bullying in a two- to three-month-old puppy may be resolved within a single session, it would take several months to resolve similar problems in a five-month old dog. And successfully rehabilitating an eight-month old dog may take as long as a couple of years.

The rehabilitation of fearful and/or aggressive dogs is often constrained:

1. Punishment, or more usually aversive NON-punishment, usually exacerbates the problems and
2. Most traditional classical conditioning routines take forever — often exceeding the time or money that owners are willing to spend

Recently though, new techniques have been developed to accelerate and maximize classical conditioning, progressive desensitization and ultimately, re-socialization.

- Differential classical conditioning (DCC) prevents unintentional reinforcement of reactivity when classically conditioning the dog.
- Rather than attempting to resolve problems in the course of everyday life, troubleshooting set-ups accelerate classical conditioning.



- Using kibble and tug toys (fairly low-value primary reinforcers) empowered as the highest-value mega-secondary reinforcers maximizes classical conditioning.
- Early Socialization with other dogs at 12 weeks of age (earlier if a singleton)
- Puppy Play for Dogs to teach each other Bite Inhibition
- Immediately Resolving Bullying and Fearfulness of Other Puppies/Dogs
- Variable-Age Socialization Groups to maintain Confidence and Social Savvy throughout adolescence.
- Ongoing Classical Conditioning throughout adolescent even though the dog appears to be friendly, confident
- One-on-One Classical Conditioning Set-Ups to accelerate the process
- Come-Sit-Watch+CC to break stares and decrease tension and threatening behavior
- Objectively Assessing Severity of Fighting-based on Fight:Bite Ratio (actual damage done)
- Quantitative Assessment of Prognosis and Time require to Retrain
- Differential Classical Conditioning (DCC) to enable simultaneous Operant and Classical Conditioning
- Empowering Tug Toys as Mega-Secondary Reinforcers
- The Jolly Routine — certainly the most underutilized Classical Conditioning routine
- Growl Classes

Southwest City Dog Park plans to hold off-site viewing of Dr. Dunbar's training tapes — probably between January and March 2016. Group viewing and discussion related to dog behavior, training, manners, self control, dealing with aggression. Watch for more info after the Holidays.

Ian Dunbar, DVM

Dr. Dunbar is a world thought leader in dog behavior — and he revolutionized the dog training industry with the first ever puppy training classes and his unique lure & reward, off-leash techniques. Learn more at website:

www.dogstardaily.com/blogger/4



Pooch Pack

Is your 4-Legged part of a pack which includes little humans of school age?

If so, your pooch, just like the humans, probably got into the swing of summer fun. Lots of activity, kids to play with, and exciting interruptions to the regular routine.

Well . . . Now that the kids are back in school – and busy with their 2-Legged pals and their own activities, your doggie may feel a little left out – maybe even a bit of separation anxiety . “*Where did they go?*” So, please, make sure your pooch is getting trips to the dog park, regular walks, and maybe, a little extra snuggle time.

And, maybe, your 4-Legged might get a bit of schooling, too! We'd like to see more SWCDP 4-Leggeds with Canine Good Citizen designations.



**TRAINERS
recommended by
Humane Society
of Missouri**

Get the full list and contact info here

www.hsmo.org/pet-training/area-trainers-list-1.pdf



SWCDP Stars - Come on, Get on Board!

Bisky, Golden Retriever – 2013 Human: Joan
Caika, German Shepherd – 2014 Human: Joan
King, Husky/Shepherd – 2013 Human: Bob H
Willow, Doberman – 2011 Human: Judi N



Canine Good Citizen

A little self-control and manners!

All of the exercises are done on a leash

- Test 1:** **Accepting a friendly stranger**
- Test 2:** **Sitting politely for petting**
- Test 3:** **Accepting grooming & having well kept appearance**
- Test 4:** **Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)**
- Test 5:** **Walking through a crowd**
- Test 6:** **Sit & down on command and staying in place**
- Test 7:** **Coming when called**
- Test 8:** **Reaction to another dog**
- Test 9:** **Reaction to distraction**
- Test 10:** **Supervised separation**



American Kennel Club (AKC) designation for all breeds and mixed breeds (*do not need to be registered to AKC to participate*)

More Program Info Here

www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/what-is-canine-good-citizen/

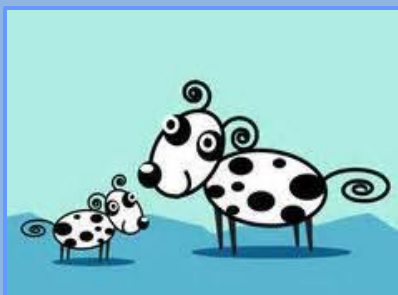
AKC Approved CGC Evaluators in Missouri

www.apps.akc.org/apps/events/cgc/cgc_bystate.cfm#results

Ongoing CGC Testing at Greater St Louis Dog Training Club + AKC Dog Museum.

CGC Testing will be available at Purina Farms during the Canine Games on **October 10.**

SWCDP Welcomes Puppies



SWCDP welcomes dozens and dozens of puppies every season. They bounce through our front gate with an abandon that is enviable – the world is nothing but an adventure.

PUPPY PARENTS

Your pooch's future is in your hands!

Even though SWCDP cannot accept puppy membership until 4 months and completion of all required vaccinations, we strongly encourage puppy parents to begin socializing their puppy from Day One. Get out there – show your puppy that the big world, with all its moving parts, is fun.



In addition to what your puppy will learn on the playground from his doggie peers, it is up to the puppy parent to set the boundaries and let the pup know early on that there are rules and having a little self control and manners are expected. We're not suggesting perfection – it is really more of a safety thing. You would not want your exuberant puppy to jump on an elderly person, knock him over and break a hip, right? Get the picture? Don't let your puppy's cuteness set the stage for him to think he can do whatever he wants, just because he wants to. Groovy! If it feels good, just do it. No!

Remember, most dogs, regardless of age, are like a sponges, they are soaking up their environment and learning every second. They learn the good and the not so good. So you, puppy parent, get to decide which it will be.

Finally, getting your dog to come, or leave it, or stop, when you ask him – could save his life or keep him from getting involved in an unnecessary fight or accident. A certain level of control is vital to keeping your pup safe, sound, and happy.

Sit Stay Down Leave It

In a Perfect World . . .

If only things were perfect. New born pups would remain with their Mother and littermates for three months before moving to a new, loving home. Aaah, wouldn't that be wonderful? Let the Momma and other housemates teach the new pup what is acceptable behavior and what is not. In this perfect world, each pup would learn appropriate play, bite inhibition, and self control. And with those skills – build confidence for life in the big world.



Do You Know The THREE SECOND RULE?

Dogs of all ages only correlate commands or corrections to the action if given within 3 seconds of such activity. The 1st second is most effective and the 3rd second is least. If you are trying to teach or reprimand after a longer period, you are wasting your time – your pooch is already thinking about the next thing.

St Louis has many fine trainers – we suggest a good starting place might be The Greater St Louis Training Club because they have many, experienced trainers and ongoing classes for **all levels of experience and skill interests**, including CGC prep. The training facility location is about 3 miles from SWCDP and there is focus on puppy and foundation manners.

www.gsltc.org

**Greater St Louis Training Club
Shrewsbury City Center
5200 Shrewsbury Avenue
314-832-3647**



BAT 101

- Just for you
- Leave puppy at home

Puppy Kindergarten

- Transfer to next class when 16 weeks

Puppy Elementary

- Earn STAR Puppy Award after 5 weeks

Foundation Manners



Puppy Classes For 5 Months & Under

S.T.A.R. stands for **S**ocialization, **T**raining, **A**ctivity, and **A** Responsible owner-everything your puppy needs to have a great start in life.

SWCDP SAIC

SAFETY AND INCIDENT COMMITTEE

This committee has been quite active so far in 2015 –having processed reports from general misunderstands and miscommunication to low level aggression and bullying to dog scuffles and fights, some leading to bite injuries. **Two unrelated dogs have lost their SWCDP privileges in 2015.** In addition to dealing with many emails or reports, the committee has been busy developing new protocol and processes to improve the overall dog park experience for all.

In order to keep our playground safe – rules must be followed – and those breaking the rules must have consequences. Our SAIC invests an enormous amount of time trying to collect all information from involved parties as well as independent witnesses, when possible, before evaluating each case, and objectively making a ruling.

When To File a Report: (Provide as much information as you can, including your contact info – and one of the SAIC will be in touch)

SAIC uses Dr. Ian Dunbar Bite Assessment Scale
(see page 15) as a tool when reviewing SWCDP Incident Reports

- Involved in dog fight with or without injuries
- Witness to a dog fight or ongoing aggressive or inappropriate behavior
- Information related to members consistently breaking rules or creating disturbances
- Information – related to trespassers – we need specifics
- Safety concerns – if equipment is broken or missing – let us know

Forms are available in the front entry area or you can print from website. We cannot do anything about a situation if we don't know about it or if inadequate information is given. We can't figure out who a dog is simply by a description of "black dog". On the other hand, remember, the SAIC is staffed by your fellow members and they volunteer their time – so think it through before reporting. Make sure you have a valid complaint and are not simply over-reacting or having a bad day. Be careful not to burn out or abuse our SAIC team. We do not need to know – or want to know – every little detail of playground happenings. Only the big stuff. – or repeated behavior that might lead to the big stuff. Work out minor situations on your own. Communicate with members about how you feel and why – and try to work out a routine conducive to sharing a common space. Communication and common sense are key.

SAIC.incident.SWCityDogPark@gmail.com

Watch List

Any dog involved in an Incident Report, both aggressor and victim are placed on the Watch List so that SAIC can monitor future activity. The Watch List is also used for dogs who have not been involved in a full blown fight, but rather whose names pop up from time to time for causing trouble. SAIC uses the Watch List to determine if a bad behavior trend line develops. Nothing is done initially. Only when it becomes clear that such dog is a consistent problem, will SAIC contact owner to inquire further and offer suggestions or outside resources, as needed. It is normal for dogs to get into a scuffle occasionally (*think about quarreling siblings*). And not all dogs like each other (*just like humans prefer some people over others*). **We want SWCDP dogs to be given the freedom to play and not be punished for being a dog. And, balance this with playground safety. Overly aggressive dogs are not allowed on our playground.** But we have plenty of 4-Legged members who love rowdy play – the rougher the better – and that is OK. It is up to the humans to help their pooch find the playmates that match up with their play styles and preferences.



We want all dogs to succeed on the SWCDP playground

A private list is maintained but the list is not made public because we don't want innocent dogs to get "labeled". We do not think it fair for a dog to gain a "troublemaker" reputation before the evidence proves such. We give owners guidance & time to make corrections, when possible.



Trespassing

What's the Big Deal?

Why you should care

Soap Box



Each year the St Louis Parks Department issues a seasonal permit to Southwest City Dog Park. This permit is in accordance to City Ordinance 66595 – and is renewable annually at the discretion of the Parks

Commissioner. To be eligible for a renewal, SWCDP must be in compliance with the rules and have demonstrated management capabilities, through SWCDP volunteer organization, to run a clean and safe dog park. A key element of this – is to appropriately process all membership applications. SWCDP must ensure that current vaccine records, signed application acknowledging agreement to rules, signed waiver holding the City and SWCDP harmless, and user fee are collected and documents retained in SWCDP records for every dog and owner using our dog park. Anyone using SWCDP facilities without proper vetting is considered to be “trespassing”. City Ordinance 66595 works together with City Ordinance 57335. 66595 gives SWCDP the permit and authority to be the managing entity for the dog park. As the managing entity we have the right – and responsibility – as outlined in 57335 to determine and control who uses the facility. The City Attorney, Parks Department, and Police & Ranger Departments have all been involved in discussions in 2015 – and stand ready to assist us, as needed.



*Ignorance
is no excuse!*

NO TAG NO ADMITTANCE NO EXCEPTION

*Giving out SWCDP gate code or letting non-members in
may result in membership termination*

What To Do If You Encounter a Trespasser **Any dog without current SWCDP tag**

When other members are available – it is always preferable that you team up and determine who will speak to trespasser, who will take photo or write down car license number, etc.

- Engage in cordial conversation, small chit chat. Ask for dog's name *(and human's name, if possible)*
- Ask to see current SWCDP tag. You can also check the Dog Member Roster *(hanging on message board in entry area)*
- Explain rules, show application box or advise to print from website. Escort to front gate if they are already on grounds.
- If at any point the situation escalates to an uncomfortable level, you should immediately call the Park Ranger for help. Safety for yourself and others must always be top priority.
- Send all information collected to our Safety and Incident Committee (SAIC). If trespasser id can be determined *(name or license #)* – the police will send a warning letter with notice that a second offense may include a trespassing summons.

All SWCDP members must help monitor the playground – it is up to YOU to know who your dog (s) is playing with – and help us take appropriate action

SAIC: SAIC.Incident.SWCityDogPark@gmail.com



Addressing the 5 sources of our trespassing problems - we are happy to report that we have made great strides in improving our security and safety. We still have much work to do – but as we close out the summer, we have a “No Trespassing” sign installed by St Louis City Parks Dept.

We have added height to the front gate and surrounding fence as a deterrent to those who reach over the gate to let themselves in.



We are researching products, services, and supporting prep & installation of a new entry system, likely to be fob or swipe card. Not only will this provide better control over who enters through front gate but SWCDP will have a permanent record of who is on the grounds at any specific date or time – and this will be a valuable management tool, especially when assessing a dog fight or other problem.

SWCDP rules are clearly posted in & around grounds.

911

Park Ranger
314/289-5350

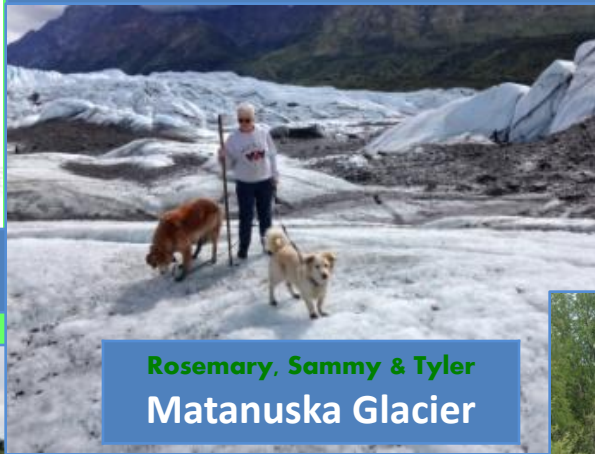


Roadies

Bill & Rosemary K's

Alaskan Summer

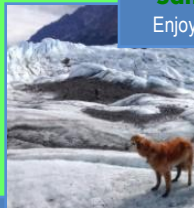
Bill and Rosemary took their RV on a long trek to Alaska for a good chunk of the summer – and their 4-Leggeds, Sammy and Tyler – went along for the ride, and the excitement of so many new sites, smells, and new friends



**Rosemary, Sammy & Tyler
Matanuska Glacier**



**Sammy
Enjoys view**



The Arctic Circle

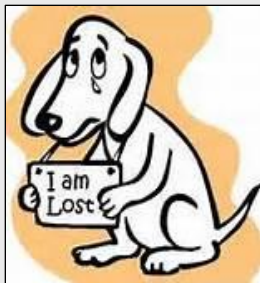
They made it to the Arctic Circle – and they got about 60 miles into the Coldfoot Camp area before the rain changed their plans – and they settled for a photo of sign instead.



**Rosemary, Tyler & Sammy
Missouri River
(in Montana)**

**Remember
these important contacts**

Lost or Found Pets



Primary Resource

www.stllostpets.org/

a collaboration of the Animal Protective Association (APA), St. Louis County Animal Care and Control and the Humane Society of Missouri (HSMO)

90% of lost, stray and unwanted pets in the St. Louis area end up at one of these three agencies, so if your pet is missing, there is a very good chance they could be at one of 3 shelters mentioned

Additional Resources

www.stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/

**[www.facebook.com/groups/
STLMOlostfoundpaws/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpaws/)**

TWITTER . . .

LostDogSTL



CITY OF ST. LOUIS

ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

www.accstl.com/

LostDogSTL is a Twitter account created to help the residents of St. Louis and surrounding areas locate a pet quickly. If a pet is found, the person finding that pet can also send a tweet to

LostDogSTL, in which **LostDogSTL** will then retweet to followers.

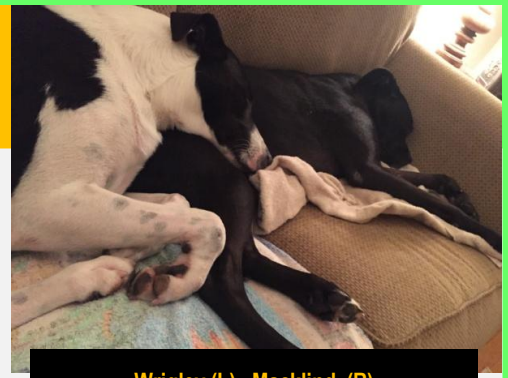
Sleepovers

Temporary Home

Macklind opened her home to Wrigley, who needed a place to hang out for several weeks while his human tended to



several personal things to which Wrigley could not be included. Through their budding friendship, Macklind seems to like having a snuggle buddy and someone always ready to play or share a toy. And Wrigley says he is a happy boy having a great place to hang out while waiting for his human to set up their new home.



Wrigley (L) Macklind (R)

Friendship

Many friendships are formed at Southwest City Dog Park – and more times than we know – humans and canines are reaching out to one another in many ways. This is only a sampling, there are many similar stories.



Oshie (L) Maggie (R)

Labor Day Weekend

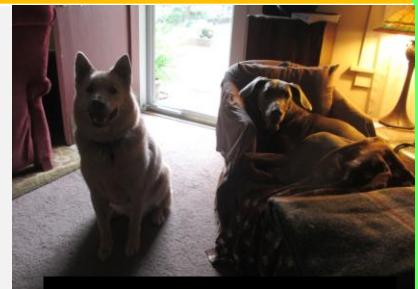
Oshie was quite happy to have Maggie spend a long holiday at his home while Maggie's humans went out of town for the weekend. They also share a common bond for their daily visits to their beloved dog park. Oshie and Maggie had fun stealing each others treats, running, wrestling, and, of course, lots of lively conversations.



Day Trippin'

Friendship

Willow enjoys having King spend the day 2-3 times per week while his human goes to work. They spend hours looking out the door, taking turns with the front spot, but both making sure all street activity is "approved" by both. As long as Willow gets the most comfortable napping places she is most generous with her home – and King, being such a nice gentleman lets Willow have first pick.



King (L) Willow (R)

Puppy Pool Party

Sept 12



A Good Time Was Had By All

PUPPIES

Dogs Under 2 Years Old

Girls: Pink Ribbons **Boys:** Blue Ribbons

ROLE MODELS

Dogs Over 2 Years Old

(Our ambassadors of good will & good play)

Beautiful Canine Manners – Congratulations Everybody!

For six hours, we had over 100 dogs of all ages, sizes, breeds stop by the party – and with all kinds of excitement – each party goer behaved in a very nice way. Not one single quarrel or fight – these pooches were so busy exploring every inch and having so much fun – it never occurred to any one of them to start an argument. This is not to say we didn't have plenty of high energy and rambunctious play. Nice job everyone!

Pools, Toys, Games, Treats Galore, Prizes

Door Prizes for Humans

First Prize: Movie Tickets - Landmark Theatres

Second Prize: SWCDP Shirt or Tank Top

Third Prize: SWCDP Shirt or Tank Top

Fourth Prize: Pedigree Tote Bag

Fifth Prize: SWCDP Koozies (2)

Congrats to Winners

1st Daniel & Leslie R (Coco)

2nd Mark & Amy B (CC)

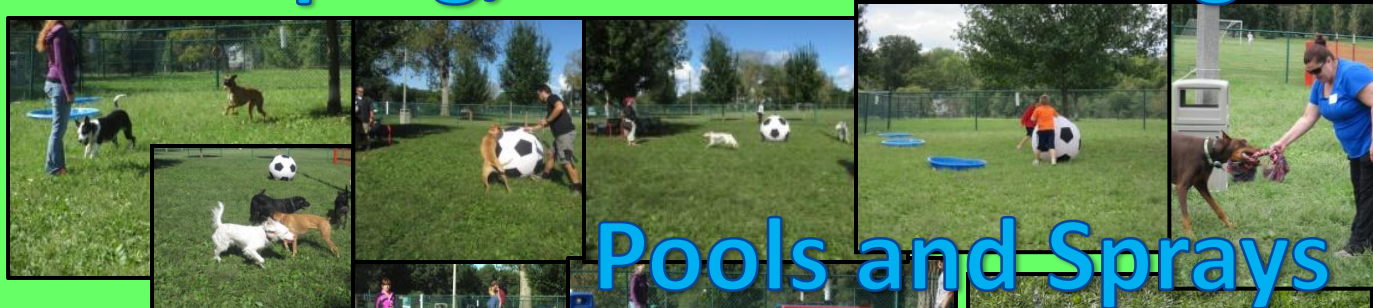
3rd Aimee J (Sara, Dudley, Biggles)

4th Matt & Ashley G (Mona)

5th Michael & Janice B (Kirby)



Romping, Giant Ball & Tug



Pools and Sprays

Peanut Butter Winners



Wiggling

Relaxing & Socializing, Too!

Peanut Butter



Licking



Contest

Find the Treat Course

NOSE WORK



Door Prize Drawing



Frozen Yogurt Banana Treats, Too!

