



SWCDP Fall Event

November 3



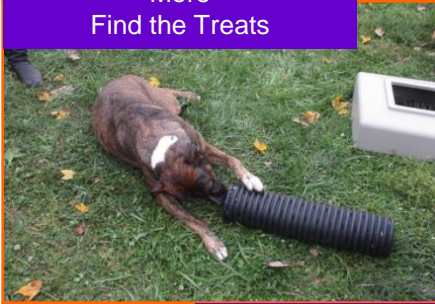
Photo Booth for Costume Contestants



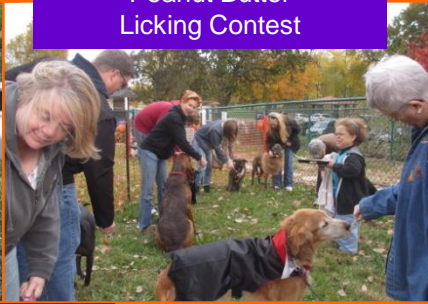
More Find the Treats



Free Nail Trim & Consult



Peanut Butter Licking Contest



Woweee Windy
Our day started with clouds and major wind – but this did not keep our party goers from showing up. As the weather calmed, members enjoyed a day packed with games, treats, and good times for all. The humans sipped apple cider in between taking their pooches from booth to booth.

We had six winners from the Peanut Butter Licking contest – and all were winners if they bobbed for hotdogs or took a tour of the find the Treat course.

This was our fifth food drive event, and our best one yet. **Thanks you members!**



Bobbing for Hotdogs



March will be next SWCDP donation event



This 501 (c) (3) organization is dedicated to keeping companion animals with their families during financially difficult times by providing emergency pet food assistance. They strive to reduce the number of abandoned and unwanted pets in shelters and on the streets by providing nutritious pet food, as well as encouraging spay/neuter. 18,000 lbs per mo!

www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org

SWCDP Community Project



Almost 300 pounds!



Meet Our Costumed 4-Leggeds



Mac



Molly



Chloe



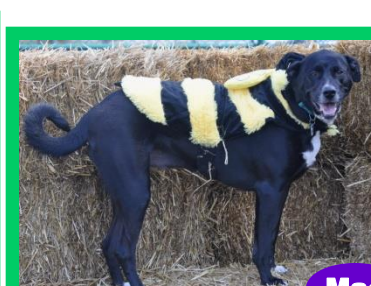
Jax



Tyler



Gus



Mae



Rosie



Wookie



Coach



Biggles



Sara



Nina



Stella



Skit



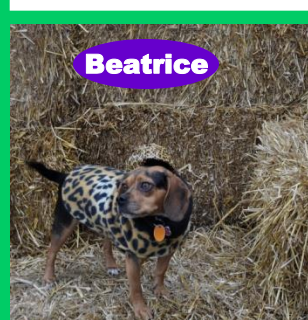
Samy



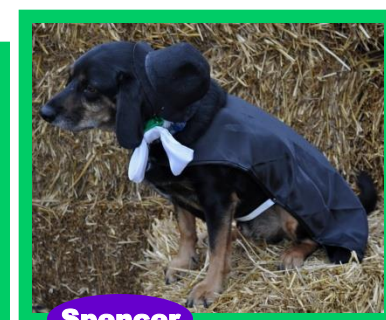
Brody



Stuckey



Beatrice



Spencer



Costume Winners



Coach



2nd

Brody



Beatrice

3rd

Costume Contest Voting Process



All members were invited to the panel, via SurveyMonkey, and we are pleased to announce that 78 of you participated in the judging. The voting was a quick process, but perhaps not an easy one, since we had so many excellent costumes. A few were wildly popular and the races, in some cases, were very close right up until the closing date. Thanks to all our contestants and judges for participating.

FREE NAIL CLIP

Party guests were invited to drop by the grooming booth, donated by Aimee Simon, owner of Flying Fur....and many did stop by for a quick canine nail trim or general grooming consultation.

Thank You!



Event Co-Sponsor

www.flyingfurgrooming.com

PRIZES

Pawsitively Fintastic donated:

First Prize - \$50.00 Gift Certificate

Second Prize - \$25.00 Gift Certificate

Third Prize - \$15.00 Gift Certificate

(Shopping spree dates tbd)

Thank You!



Key Event Sponsor

www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com

COOKIES



Each 4-Legged entering the contest got a special cookie at the end of photo shoot. Yummy pumpkin cookies donated by Three Dog Bakery. Some munched slowly, others gobbled up quickly – all enjoyed.

Thank You!



Event Co-Sponsor

www.threedogstl.com

Myths and Misinformation

"Startled Means Aggressive Dog"

A deaf dog can be startled by an unexpected touch; usually responses range from a "Yikes!" to a "Huh?" Studies show that very few respond in an aggressive manner. Depending on breed and previous life experiences, some conditioning may be helpful.

"Should Never Live With Children"

Choosing appropriate breed, size, temperament – and being committed to socialization and training is more important to success than deaf vs. hearing.

"More-Likely-To-Be-Hit-By-A-Car"

No dog is born knowing the sound of a car means danger. Keeping on leash, and training not to dash away if leash goes slack (you drop it) can keep deaf dogs (all dogs) in check.

"Need Hearing Dog"

Deaf dogs do not need a hearing dog as a guide; don't make your deaf dog a dependent. Instead, train your dog to communicate and stay in touch with you.

"Time Bomb"

All dogs go through canine adolescence; no data to support deaf dogs will explode into aggression for no reason.

"Incredible Challenge To Train"

Dogs are postural creatures, tuned into the world of body language. Well trained deaf dogs make eye contact with their owners & many dogs pick up movement & signals with their peripheral vision.

For more info, check out

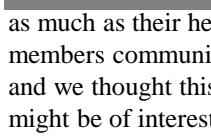
www.deafdogs.org

Deaf dogs thrive at SWCDP

Have you met Beacon?



He loves hangin' at dp



We have several deaf dogs as SWCDP members and they have a range of personalities and interests – and all seem to thrive and enjoy their dog park visits – as much as their hearing peers. Some of our members communicate with ASL sign language and we thought this method of communication might be of interest to our members and their hearing dogs as well.

Meet Lily

Lily is the inspiration for the deaf dog feature in this newsletter

Lily, a white wirehaired Terrier mix, approx. 2 ½ years old. Lily, like so many rescue dogs, had a shaky beginning.

She was living in a house with 17 other dogs – six pregnant, including Lily. Lily had her puppies via

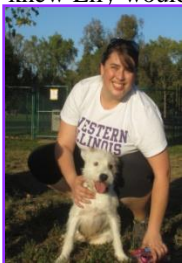


Notice Lily's Enchanting Eyeliner!

an emergency C-section and then was placed in a nice foster home, Thanks to All Hope Rescue.

Around that time, Katie M was finally ready to find a 4-Legged friend after being dogless since the passing of her previous canine pal 3 years prior. Katie started on Petfinder thinking it might take some time to find the "right one". But, she knew immediately when she saw Lily's photo – that Lily would be hers forever. Only after Katie had already fallen for Lily – did she discover that Lily was deaf.

That made the match all the more perfect since Katie teaches ASL sign language, an integral part of Katie's daily routine. Katie knew Lily would fit right in. And she did.



From the start, Katie communicated with Lily using sign language and lots of facial expression, too. She also will flicker the lights at home or her cell phone or stomp floor

Deaf Dogs . . . Are They Different?



Special needs, yes
Different, no

to get Lily's attention. Katie said she will usually wake Lily up to let Lily know if she is leaving the room just to give Lily a heads up. While Lily is pretty laid back – she is also observant which was a good thing as she quickly learned Katie's signs.

Lily can be shy at first but she adjusts quickly. When visiting the dog park, Lily tends to stay at Katie's side initially and as



she gains confidence Lily always ventures out to engage in play, often with the bigger dogs. And, she can sound fearless – perhaps a Terrier trait.

Lily is happy visiting Katie's best friend's house because with 2 kids & 2 dogs...Lily never gets bored. Lily hanging out with Katie's deaf friends is interesting. Lily is very intrigued when they try "yelling" at Lily (for fun)...there are lots of hands and arms waving around.

But most of Lily's communication efforts are similar to many hearing dogs. Lily wines when she wants something and if Katie ignores her, Lily will bite on or take whatever Katie has and carry it out of the room to make Katie go after her. Lily will eat anything the humans are eating. And, if she's still hungry after regular food, Lily will flip her bowl over, bring it to Katie's feet, drop it, sit, stare until she gets more.

Katie concluded that Lily is a great apartment dog because she cannot hear anything that happens in the hallway – and she sleeps through thunderstorms! Lily has been a really good fit for Katie and the extra perk is Katie now has a built in alarm clock – Lily is happy to wake Katie up each day at 6:00am Yeah or Yikes?

Deaf Dogs . . . Are They Different?



Xander (middle)
Enjoys a Romp with Pals

**Special needs, yes
Different, no**

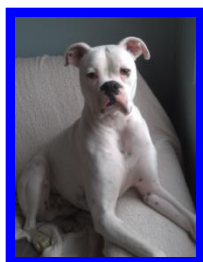
Signing Can Be a Two-Way Street

Kenny shared: "Signing with Xander is a two-way street. He has enormously expressive gestures that he does to command us to do things. One example, he has learned that sitting correlates strongly with getting a treat, so now when my wife or I stand in the kitchen, he frequently trots over to us and preemptively sits forcefully on the floor, in the hope of cuing us to give him one. If we don't respond with a treat, he will reposition himself so that he is directly in front of us, sit forcefully again, make strong eye contact, then completely un-subtly will shift his gaze to his treat jar, then back to us, then back to his treat jar." Repeat until treated. Xander – a whole body communicator!

Meet Xander

Happy Wiggle Butt

The criteria were very precise: According to Kenny, Tiffany is "bonkers for Boxers" so the breed was settled, but Tiffany required a wiggly butt (Boxer butt).



Kenny, well, being a cat person, had to be convinced the journey would be worth it. Turns out, the journey was short – and the convincing shorter.

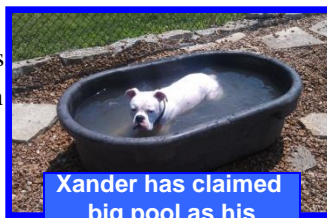
Boxer Schnauzer Rescue came for home inspection, September, 2011, and Xander, six month old white puppy, just happened to tag along. And he never left. Kenny and Tiffany recall Xander was just irrepressibly good-natured, incredibly sweet, and playful. It didn't hurt that Xander is a true pioneer in the field of butt wiggling. So, hearts were stolen - and then they learned Xander was deaf! No worries, Tiffany has a degree in deaf communications and Kenny has a soft spot for hard luck cases – and Xander's deafness was hindering his options. Done!

Easy transition but Xander likely had some bad experiences because even today, he can get super-submissive and "cringey" when spooked by something, usually a lifted shoe or leg, as if he might get kicked. And, one time Xander had a melt down over an innocent pear. Xander is apprehensive about having his ears touched, but if he trusts you, he really gets into ear rubbing and will let out a big groan of contentment – if you massage his ears the proper way.

A combination of ASL language and general intuitive signage, such as, Mom, Dad, cat, sit, come, get down, good boy – and more are used daily but they talk to him all the time, even if he can't hear them.

Xander's humans find Xander adorably odd, with just the right amount of "weird foibles" to make life interesting and fun. Xander loves car rides. He sticks his nose out the window, closes his eyes, grins widely, and takes a deep breath. It looks like bliss for him. Being highly social, he loves going anywhere and is a regular at a few neighborhood establishments where they bring him drinks & embrace him warmly.

Xander loves dog park, pools & running with pals. When he gets near other dogs, Xander



Xander has claimed
big pool as his

goes completely stiff, with only his nubbin tail wagging furiously, until he can't take the anticipation anymore and takes off running, hoping his friend will give chase. At home, Xander's humans watch him chase a flashlight beam or run at breakneck speed or circles, they call it "Nascar-ing".

When Xander wants to communicate his dissatisfaction with the humans, say for being delinquent in their dog park outings, Kenny said they can pretty much count on underwear, socks, running shoes, getting chewed or a healthy dose of slobber. Mostly, Xander snuggles or spoons with Tiffany & Kenny at every opportune moment. Kenny, new dog-lover, couldn't have foreseen that having his freshly shaven head enthusiastically licked by a 4-Legged would become "normal living".



Awesome Video Dog Signs

Worth your 9 minutes!

<http://deafdogsrock.com/beginning-sign-training>

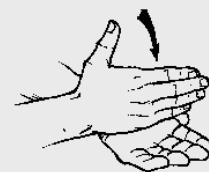
Ever notice how your dog quickly picks up even your slightest movement or gesture? Dogs are very visual – and sign language can be useful for training hearing dogs, too.



Are you looking for a few new – and effective – tools for your training tool kit? Consider incorporating a few ASL signs into your daily routine, make it a habit, your dog will learn to keep his eyes on you.

ASL Sign Language 100 Quick Signs

<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/concepts.htm>



"Stop"

Rainbow Bridge



Tristan

The Tiny Mighty Dog



Tristan was an addict. He didn't know he was an addict – he just was. Addicted to love, that is.

Now, Tristan did not lack for having the ladies – he was after all, kept in a puppy mill for 12 years, working as a stud dog. But, these little trysts were equivalent to one-night stands; they meant nothing – and it was exhausting work to boot. Tristan was looking for true love. No matter, he was used until the mill was done with him and then tossed him out. So where is a used-up three pound stud to go? In April 2009, he was dumped at the Missouri Humane Society and that's where he met Mary. And, there was something about Mary...

For 30 years, Mary R, (nurse now retired), has fostered many dogs and tends to favor the elderly ones.

Upcoming Newsletters

Have you lost a beloved canine?

Do you have an interesting story, a fun or unusual experience? A bit of news?

Has your 4-Legged earned any special awards or learned any new skills, tricks, certifications?

Is there a topic you would like to see featured in the newsletter?

Send to:

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

"They are the greatest", says Mary. She went on to share that the youngsters tend to chew on everything and pee every where and the seniors always seem grateful to have a warm and loving home. Mary agreed to foster Tristan for a short time. Their personalities "did not suit" each other – she thought he was way too cocky and full of himself. But Mary didn't think it would be a problem for just a few weeks. What could happen?

It was not love at first sight for Mary, but something must have clicked because within a short time Mary adopted Tristan. Perhaps, she thought she could change him (certainly, Tristan thought he could change her!) So Tristan settled in with Mary and two adopted Boxers. Things were pretty good except for, as Mary puts it, "the daily warring". Tristan continued to "boss" Mary around – he had his own sense of priorities. Tristan would stare at Mary, desperate to communicate, and if she didn't hop to it, he would bark until she acquiesced. When Mary determined these demands were unacceptable, the battle of wills began. Many "this is for your own good" conversations were had. Sometimes, when Mary might have put his tiny self in the backyard to gain a little space between them – she had to factor in the neighborhood hawk possibly swooping in for a dinner date – so, Mary ended up standing in the back yard as guard for Tristan during his time outs.

So much for a little separation!



Mostly, though,

Tristan was a happy boy. Not big for words or rules – Tristan was very happy cuddling on Mary's lap; he was quite responsive to affection of any

kind. The love grew – and it was mutual – Tristan finally earned cuddle rights and slept blissfully in Mary's bed (the only dog to ever do this) tucked safely under her chin.

Mary shared that Tristan didn't have a clue about doggie toys or games but he did enjoy interaction with his Boxer house mates and sharing a good chew on the end of a femur bone. Tristan loved going to the dog park. Tristan, true to his Terrier roots, was fearless;



Mary said he was "his own little man".

Mary tried to protect Tristan at the dog park, even resorting to putting a tiny inner tube around his neck, so he would stay in Alternate and not slip under the gate. But Tristan insisted on joining the fun, sometimes to his own dismay, when giant paws came crashing down on him. Even a broken leg didn't slow him down, he just hobbled around on his itty bity cast.

Tristan was a quirky eater; refused to eat out of a bowl - this boy wanted his kibble straight up – on the floor or paper towel. Not one for a lot of fanfare he did love boiled chicken, but Mary said, "well, you can't live on chicken alone". So she cajoled him with a variety of food and over time Tristan blossomed to 4.3 pounds. Impressive!

Mary believes Tristan was a "good dog who just wanted to be understood". A spunky dog until the end. At 16+ years old, sadly Tristan passed away from mouth cancer. The truth is – Mary loved Tristan and Tristan loved Mary – and none of the rest matters very much. Mary thinks of Tristan often and smiles when she remembers how they ended each day – together.

Rainbow Bridge



Mindy

"Best Dog Ever"

It's been a wonderful 13 years for Ken and his family, as they enjoyed a special bond with Mindy, who seemed to fit right in and go with the flow from Day One. Never any trouble – maybe Mindy had the wisdom as a puppy to realize how lucky she was to have found a loving home so quickly. If there were any puppy issues, so very long ago, the family sure does not recall now.

In 2000, they were flipping through photos on Pet Search when Ken's daughter, Stephanie, who was only 8 years old at the time, spotted a "bundle of cuteness". It was "love at first sight" when they saw this precious little puppy at an adoption event at Petsmart.

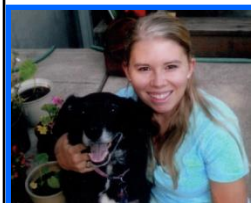
Mindy, a Border Collie mix, was one of 4 puppies; their Mother was



a stray rescue, too. That was all the info they had, and not knowing "what we would get" – the family jumped in with no regrets. No question; no hesitation – this was **the one**. "A perfectly healthy, energetic, lovable family addition."

Mindy and Stephanie grew up together and became "sisters". They played all the time; going on walks, trips to parks, ball playing – it didn't matter the activity – Mindy simply liked being there. Mindy loved everyone, especially kids, and Mindy's tail was always wagging. Whenever Mindy wanted

something, she would sit in front of one of her humans and stare until she got what she needed. Smart – and convincing, too.



Mindy loved to ride in the family car – front seat, please. Her longest trips were to visit the rest of the family in Viburnum, MO. Over the years, Mindy came to love her birthday party – her very own ice cream and cake, with candles, of course.

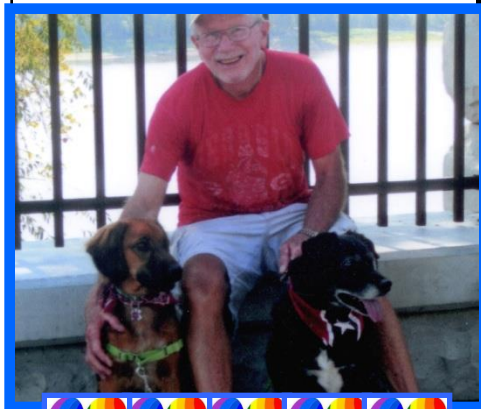
Ken and Mindy became regular walking partners, too, and especially liked long walks late at night or in the snow (Well, Mindy did anyway!). Mindy became a "blues fan" and enjoyed going to Jefferson Barracks for Blues Concerts. But the real treat was sharing a bag of popcorn with Ken.

Oh, life was so good – until February 2012. That's when a new wild and crazy puppy, named Savannah, moved onto the scene. Mindy was 11 by then, and not very accepting of the Savannah drama. Savannah, a xxx, was xxx when she joined Ken's family – and this new roommate usually found a way to annoy Mindy's much-loved peace.

To accommodate Savannah's high energy and enthusiasm for play, Ken joined our dog park in 2012, even though the season only had less than two months to stay open. It was worth it to Ken to get Savannah out of the house – Mindy much concurred. Ken shared that he occasionally brought Mindy to the dog park in 2012 and 2013, but she was getting a little too old to fully enjoy it. He remises, however, that the time

away from Savannah, and time with Ken, probably made the dog park trips or solo walks special.

Mindy started showing her age during the spring of 2013. She took her last camping trip in July and after that spent most of her time napping and trying to avoid Savannah. Mindy was buried in Potosi in the family pet cemetery and has her own special tombstone, marking her final resting place. Ken shared that "Mindy was my best buddy; she will be missed forevermore."



SWCDP Members

Passed Away in 2013

Terese Erdelen (Junior) Terese was an active member, and volunteer; Junior was adopted by a SWCDP member and will continue to visit park.

Wayne Martin (Molly, Maggie) Wayne was an active member and part of our BIG DIG I crew; his wife Angela will continue to bring Molly and Maggie to the dog park.

David Nasser (Little Fox) David did not renew this year, but Little Fox enjoyed membership for years; was placed in new home.



SWCDP Merchandise

Support your dog park



Hoodies



T-Shirts

Be a proud member of

Southwest City Dog Park

Help promote our park in the community by purchasing attractive and comfortable logo'd T-Shirts (short/long sleeve, tanks), Hoodies (lightweight/heavyweight), drink Koozies, and fine woven 3 inch patches. The colors and fabrics are great! All net funds go into a separate fundraising account for special projects, and not used for regular operations or repair/maintenance of the park.

Part of your purchase is tax deductible . . . SWCDP is a 501 (c) (3) organization

Order Forms available on SWCDP website or yahoo group; hard copies on message board at dog park

Best Wishes

TINY LITTLE
MONSTER



Sloan C and Jenny R (Augie, Sylvia) were SWCDP members last season and part of the creative force behind launching our fundraising activities. By giving us a great production discount we were able to sell dog park gear to raise funds for special projects. Sloan & Jenny recently moved their home operation to a retail store. We wish them much success. They are already so busy that they have not had time to get back to the dog park this season. We appreciate their ongoing support and hope to see them soon. Good job!

Tiny Little Monster specializes in highly customized screen printed items, using a manual Riley Hopkins 4 station 6 color press. Their operation, with close attention to every detail – and expert design, if you need it – is a great resource for small business, non-profits, or school teams, organizations, or individuals with small (6 item minimum) to large orders.



7207 Manchester, Maplewood, MO

www.tinylittlemonster.com

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**Thanks
Sloan**



Augie and Sloan

Sloan has donated her creative talents and graphics skills as our lead designer for the SWCDP signage project, including the "arched" sign in our front garden and the new signs through out the dog park. Her consulting advice thru the season is most appreciated.

**Volunteers
Make It Happen**



Volunteer Party

February 26

Tentative Date

Details forthcoming in early February.

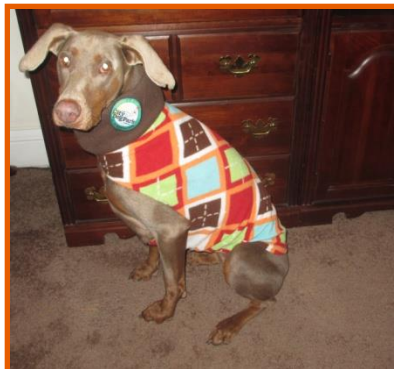
This is an honor-system invitation. If you have donated cash or goods, been on a work crew, worked an event, or helped out in any way as a SWCDP volunteer – you are invited. On behalf of the Southwest City Dog Park Board – and all its members – we want to thank you for your enthusiasm and support. We could not run this dog park without you.

Mark calendars now!



If you can help with the planning and party, contact Judi (Willow)

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



Willow says . . .

Your 4-Leggeds really, really want you to help out at their dog park. More hands lessen the load and increases the fun.

Will You Raise Your Hand?

Please contact Judi, if you can help

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



The final newsletter for the 2013-2014 Season will be distributed in March

The primary focus of this publication will be threefold

Volunteerism

- Party photos
- Special thanks & recognition
- Current needs
- 2014-2015 Season needs

Spring Break & Future

- Off-site activities, April & May
- Off-site activities, Year-round
- On-site activities, proposed

Education & Training

- Canine Good Citizen training & certification
- Manners and Play Styles
- Recall, General Obedience
- Agility, other dog sports

FYI: Offered for those interested, not a requirement of SWCDP membership.

If you wish to share an interesting story about your 4-Legged or if your dog has picked up any new skills, training, sports, etc. – send to Judi (Willow), at willow.nic07@yahoo.com If space available – you could be a feature story.

Tentative date for dog park closing is March 31 – however – if the weather is warm, we may opt to close a few days early so we can get a jump on the re-seeding of our turf.

Christmas Eve Morning



A Root Beer will do just fine, too!



Oh, the simple pleasures in life

A 4-Legged found a frozen water bottle – and every dog who stopped by the playground that morning, got into the game. They couldn't get enough of chewing on, running with, and playing Tug of War with the frozen bottle.

Fun and Games Year Round



Our Most Important Volunteer Job

Thanks to Ron D (*Elvis, Boris*) for emptying our trash cans and replenishing the bag holders year round.

Thanks to Bill A (*Cowboy*) who offered to cover for Ron while he went on a long vacation – and who has stayed on board to give Ron a helping hand.

You guys are the best!



Ron D (Elvis)



Bill A (Cowboy)



Tug of War

This is a very popular dog park game

