



Newsletter Autumn 2012

President's Message

Fall

So long summer...

You might want to get a cup of coffee or glass of wine and settle in for what I hope will be a bright moment in your day. Longer than usual, this issue is packed with photos, stories, and news. You'll notice some commonality in the pages, themes of volunteerism, good deeds, community, love of our canines – and love of our dog park. In a complicated world – it's nice to be surrounded by such inspiring stories, isn't it?

With the flurry of summer activities & necessary improvements behind us – the next two projects warming up in the queue – are both self-funded projects, also driven by volunteer help:

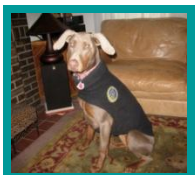
1) Dog Wash 2) New Message Center and Park Signage

We have been working for months on our **SAFETY FIRST** program – and are finally ready to officially launch. We are looking forward to our new message board – and appreciate our vet sponsorship and donations to the dog park.

If you pressed me – really pressed me – to choose between safety and fun – I still don't think I could do it. Safety vs. Fun. Hmmm. Equal importance in my book – and as such – both are big motivators in all SWCDP management decisions.

Please take a close look at our calendar – we hope you will stop by the Meet Greet events; if you have a senior canine – consider coming to our Senior Sunday Social. Special mention about our free canine CPR training, courtesy of Watson Road Veterinary Clinic. Our new dog park gear will debut on October 21 and merchandise will be on-site on Oct 21 and Oct 27.

I'll leave you with my personal dog park motto: "Relax, leave the worldly stresses at the gate, and enjoy sharing time with your 4-Legged". Members are always saying that SWCDP is a city jewel – and I couldn't agree more. Aahh, Leashless in St. Louis.

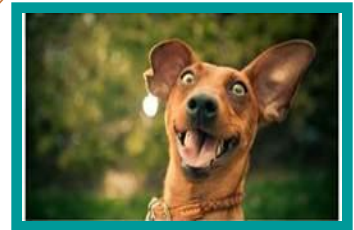


Willow, Dobie Girl

Judi N

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

www.swcitydogpark.org



What a summer!

We held five **Meet-Ups at Broemmelsiek Dog Park** (May thru September). We published the schedule for a **Pool Crawl**, and some of our members visited local area pools for a final swim the week after Labor Day.

In June, we kicked off the summer with a **Puppy Pool Party** for our 2 year olds and under – and many of our more experienced 4-Leggeds served as role models.

In July, we had multiple events while wrestling with high humidity, triple digit temps, a water main break, and a mud crisis around Water Station 3. We introduced our community project of donating to the **Bi-State Pet Food Pantry** and held a free **Intro to Agility**. This was very successful – in spite of the fact we only got our water back 30 minutes into our event – talk about suspense!

A few of us represented SWCDP at the **"Paddle with your Pooch"** event at the **Boat House** – we provided the cooling pools for the canine guests.

In August/September, we had the **BIG DIG II**, in which we installed a series of 5 French drains and enlarged our pool pad to resolve the muddy conditions around the pools and the trouble spot. We also collected supplies to donate to **Buder Elementary**, who shared their facilities with us for last year's annual meeting.

We've Got All Sizes



Tristan

Chief and Lola

And Everything In Between

SAFETY FIRST

SAFETY FIRST Program

We are excited to formally introduce our **SAFETY FIRST** Program. We thank our sponsor vets for supporting our dog park. Each vet has donated **\$350** to our **SAFETY FIRST** fund and will serve as our “go to” sources for health & safety management situations when we need professional consult. Already invaluable, our vets guided us through our Bordetella outbreak. As time allows, our vet sponsors may offer on-site activities on health-safety canine topics or appropriate articles for our newsletter.

Message Center



New message center (2 or 3 door), funded by vet donations; a plaque with their names will be featured on the board. Remaining funds will offset costs for new signage throughout the dog park.

Signage and message board are winter projects. The board will feature safety tips, emergency contacts and numbers and info about events, dp news, and other info of interest to our members.

First Aid Kit

Today we have the beginnings of a first aid kit. It is located in the grey storage bin next to the fenced storage area. We will add supplies after we consult with our vets to determine appropriate canine supplies.



For now, for humans

First Aid: Gauze, band-aids, scissors, peroxide, tweezers, strips of cloth for tourniquets.

Cleaning supplies: Bleach, Pine-Sol, anti-bacterial hand wash, liquid soap, paper towels, and rags.

Dr Zeis & Bella



Dr Tate & Raffi, Reign



Dr Hooks & Client



Larry, Zeis, DVM
Watson Road Veterinary Clinic
 3725 Watson Road
314/644-1544

Monday thru Thursday
 9:00 – 7:00
Friday 9:00 – 5:00
Saturday 9:00 – 3:00

www.watsonrdvet.com

Patrick Tate, DVM
Webster Groves Animal Hospital
 8028 South Big Bend Blvd
314/968-4310

7 days a week
24 hours a day
www.webstervets.com

See Dr Tate's pet articles
www.webstergroves.patch.com

Gavin Hooks, DVM
Big Bend Veterinary Clinic
 2224 South Big Bend Blvd
314/781-6121

Monday, Wednesday 8:00 – 5:00
Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 – 7:00
Friday 8:00 – 4:00
Saturday 8:00 – 1:00
www.bigbendvet.com

Tara Brooks, DVM
Aftton Veterinary Clinic
 8100 Gravois Road
314/352-8500

Monday, Thursday 9:00 – 7:00
Tuesday 8:00 – 5:00
Wednesday, Friday 9:00 – 5:00
Saturday 9:00 – 1:00
www.afttonvet.com

Dr Brooks & Hank



8am on Sports Radio 1380

Beginning April 7th, 2012, this hour-long, weekly show airs every Saturday in St. Louis at 8am on Sports Radio 1380, Grand Slam Sports. Animal Wise STL is hosted by **Tara Brooks, DVM**, owner of Aftton Veterinary Clinic and Matt Koch, personal dog trainer with Kennelwood Pet Resorts. Their expertise, passion for animals and fun demeanor will keep you tuning in week after week.

Good Bye Summer...



Puppy Party
Fiona has a ball!



Puppy Party
Lots of fun with 7 pools



Pool Crawl
Sugar swims- Maplewood pool



Puppy Party
Luna surrounded by friends



Agility Intro
Big turn out - Big tips



Swim & Romp Meet Up
Broemmelsiek Dog Park



Puppy Party
Isabella shares pupsicles



Agility Intro
Lucky on pause table



Swim & Romp Meet Up
Ava's first swim



Puppy Party
Wally enjoys the pool



Agility Intro
Maggie tunnels



Swim & Romp Meet Up
Happy Nala



Meet Quinn

Adoption Success Story and new SWCDP member



Career Girl Retires



Racing Name Syndicated News

Quinn competed in 85 dog races in Florida, winning 8! She retired this summer, at 3 ½,

and made her way to St Louis, via Greyhound Halfway House – and into the hearts of SWCDP member family,

Alex and Evelyn K. Quinn comes from a racing family, and coincidentally, her Mother, Front Page Queen, also retired to St. Louis.

Quinn eagerly settled into her Webster Groves home – but was puzzled a little by the concept of fun – and fuzzy friends – and freedom. A conundrum! How to spend all that free time; what's a girl to do?

Quinn's two favorite things are eating and walking. Racers do not do steps – Quinn will not go downstairs where the food is stored, instead waiting to grab it as the bowl reaches the top step. She loves her food and devours her meals in less than a minute – and enjoys vegetables and fruits, too. And – Quinn goes crazy for the leash or the car.

Quinn does find the time – and confidence – to sometimes get into mischief. Being in her new home only a few days, Quinn ate a couple cat brushes and the fish food container – but left the food – it did not meet her recently upgraded standards.

Quinn has adjusted with no problems, gets along fine with the resident cats, and discovered – to her delight – that when the humans are away – she can sleep on the couch or one of their extra beds. When the humans get ready for bed, Quinn likes to pile in with them, only to be told she must make other arrangements. Quinn usually settles for a blanket on the floor next to her humans – or her newly claimed “personal kennel”.

Alex thinks that Quinn believes their daughter's room (who no longer lives with them) is Quinn's personal space. After living her entire life in a crate or kennel – this new bedroom is simply awesome, and cozy. Quinn has a blanket in her “personal kennel” and usually stores her toys there and takes her treats in there, too – so she can munch in private.

Quinn is learning a lot at the dog park and has been visiting since August. The first time, she was a little shy and kept going to the exit gate. With each visit, Quinn gets more excited and loves going to the people to be petted. She is slowly beginning to actually greet other dogs but not yet running or playing much. She does observe and will occasionally break out in a short, quick run.



Quinn, the humans, and Marvin (chocolate lab), Alex's daughter's 4-Legged – all love the dog park and look forward to their frequent visits.

Racers do not have a clue about toys – and play. Quinn is learning how to play and has started to play with a tennis ball and carrying her toys throughout the house. If the humans are not paying attention to her – Quinn will often get one of her stuffed animals and walk by them with it her mouth. Once they notice it, she drops the toy as if she should not have it - and goes to get petted. SWCDP welcomes Quinn and her family.

Quinn Meet & Greet

Sunday, October 21

1:00 – 2:00pm

Racing Greyhounds

Alex and Evelyn got hooked on greyhounds in 1995, when they read an article about 50,000 greyhounds being killed every year – once they were done racing – usually between 2 and 5. Greyhounds can live until 12-14 and learning about their lives being snuffed out at a young age motivated them to get involved.

Quinn is the third greyhound they have adopted from **Greyhound Companions**, a half way home for greyhounds in Tulsa, OK. This is where retired greyhounds are held until they are adopted. They are spayed/neutered, get complete health exam and shots and are also cat tested to see if they are safe with cats. This halfway house is used by several adoption agencies.

www.halfwayhomegreyhounds.com

Tips about adopting a Greyhound

When you first get a greyhound you need to tape doors with windows since they are not used to windows and will walk into them. After a few days, they learn and you can remove the tape. Greyhounds have never had to negotiate stairs, so this require a learning curve. Racing greyhounds lead very regimented lives; they eat, go to the bathroom, and work out, at a certain time. They do not know how to play. Retired greyhounds are not used to doing what they want so they get a little nervous with all the free time during their transition.

Relaxed in Retirement



Shadow, a senior, shows her human how a true lady handles obnoxious sounds of a vacuum - you just sleep right through it.

Communication

Member Communication

Keeping SWCDP members in the loop regarding dog park activities/information – we publish a **Quarterly Newsletter**, and a **Quickie News** and special event notifications, as needed. Email is our highest preference for member communication because it requires minimum volunteer time and does not require paper, printing, and postage. Members without access to a computer – no worries - we will always send hard copies of the primary communiqués to you.

E-Mail Address Change

Please be sure to notify us if you change your email. All SWCDP communiqué is sent to the email address given in your member application. To stay current with all SWCDP updates and information – you need to keep us current.

Privacy

SWCDP respects your privacy and we do not sell or share your contact info.

Yahoo Group Immediate member interaction

Directions to join:

- Open your web browser, type in address box
- Type into the address box **groups.yahoo.com**
- In the 'Find a Yahoo! Group' box and type in **swcitydogpark**, then click the **Search** button
- Click **Join This Group**
- Follow the instructions
- Moderator will approve, usually in a few hours

Hot Line

For immediate information regarding dog park closings/openings, and related info – call

314/567-2012 Ext 2

New Message Center

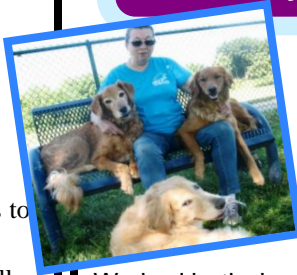
We will have a new message center and new signage (winter project), compliments of our **SAFETY FIRST** Vet Sponsors.



Lost Tags

If you lose your dog tag - the information can be traced in the member database - a new tag will be issued and the old number will be logged as "invalid" – or if the lost tag has been turned in, we will return it to you.

If you find a tag, make arrangements with Joan to turn tag into SWCDP. We will track the owner in the database, and we will return the tag, if the owner is still an active member, or we will put the tag number in our "invalid" roster.



Secretary Report

By Joan L (Rusty, Casey, Bisky)

**It's October
and we made it!**



We have had a 'Long Hot Summer'. We had both drought and storms, tree limbs down, mud, Bordetella and mosquitoes. But now, cooler weather. YEAH! I hope everyone is enjoying the park. My pack has not been to the park for a couple of months due to some family emergencies – we hope to get back soon.

We are still getting lots of new members. We currently have **398** memberships with 139 of them being new families. The Board welcomes everyone. We currently have **562** 4-Leggeds.

If anyone has lost the gate code, a tag, or has a membership question, please contact me at

secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com

Till next time. Woof, Woof, Woof

Joan L
(Rusty, Casey, Bisky)

Please do not give the gate code to anyone. Ever!

SWCDP Members Stick Together

Please help enforce the rules required by the city ordinance and our own membership. SWCDP rules are clearly listed and each member agreed to abide by the rules when signing the application. This includes having every **dog wear the current season tag while in the dog park**. Members who are trying to enforce our rules should do so in a courteous and helpful way – and when necessary – other members should provide back up so no one member has the sole responsibility.

Help us keep the trespassers out.

**No green tag
No admittance
No exceptions**

SWCDP Member Roster is
posted in entry way

Even Dogs Do IT...



Things To Do

Fun Activities

Educational Events

On-Site and Around Town



SWCDP – On-Site

Around Town Etc

<p><i>Thank You</i></p> <p>Sylvia Oglesby Smarty Paws</p> <p><i>For providing on-site</i></p> <p>Agility Tutoring</p> <p>(Fee & Reservation)</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 14 1:00 - 3:00</p> <p>Agility Tutoring (By Reservation)</p> <p>Agility Area</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 21 1:00 - 3:00</p> <p>Agility Tutoring (By Reservation)</p> <p>Agility Area</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Sept 22 8:30-10:30</p> <p>Swim & Romp</p> <p>Broemmelsiek Dog Park</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i> <i>Canine Meetups</i></p> <p>Saint Louis All Dogs</p> <p>http://www.stl.alldogs.com/</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 14 8:30-4:00</p> <p>Canine Games</p> <p>Purina Farms Grey Summit</p>
<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 21 9:00am - Noon</p> <p>Senior Sunday Social</p> <p>(Free Event)</p> <p>Alternate Dog Park</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 21 10:00 - 4:00</p> <p>SWCDP New Gear (Get your canine measured-SWCDP custom sweater) 11:00 – 1:00 Tent Main Dog Park</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 21 1:00 - 2:00</p> <p>Meet Greet Quinn (new member)</p> <p>Main Dog Park</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 20 8:30am</p> <p>Lure Coursing Purina Farms Grey Summit</p> <p>http://www.slascoursing.org/</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 20</p> <p>Terrier Fun Day</p> <p>Purina Farms Grey Summit</p> <p>http://www.moearthdogs.org/trials.htm</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 20</p> <p>Barn Hunt</p> <p>Columbia, MO</p> <p>http://barnhunting.com/workshop_july_2012</p>
<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 27 10:00-11:00</p> <p>Canine CPR Training</p> <p>(Free Event) <i>Provided by Watson Road Veterinary Clinic</i></p> <p>Alternate DP</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 27</p> <p>Meet Greet Cowboy (new member) 8:30-9:30</p> <p>Meet Greet Honey (Looking for her Forever Home!)</p> <p>11:00-12:00</p> <p>Alternate DP</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Oct 28 1:00-3:00</p> <p>Agility Tutoring (By Reservation)</p> <p>Agility Area</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 20 10:00 – 6:00</p> <p>St Louis Pet Expo St Charles Convention Ctr</p> <p>http://stlpetexpo.com/</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Oct 20 8:00pm</p> <p>Chad and Jeremy Concert</p> <p>APA Benefit The Playhouse at Westport</p> <p>www.apamo.org/chadjeremy.aspx</p>	<p><i>Sunday</i> Nov 11 2:00-4:00</p> <p>Bi-State Pet Food Pantry OPEN HOUSE</p> <p>4015 Papin (off Vandeventer, old Holt Electric)</p> <p>www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org/</p>

All You Need Is Love



Schoep sleeps in his human's arms

Have you seen this story? John Unger rescued Schoep when he was 8 months old – and they have been inseparable ever since. Schoep, now 19 years old, suffers from extreme arthritis – can barely walk and sleeping is difficult. John was discussing euthanasia with his Vet when photographer Hannah Stonehouse Hudson took this photo – and captured the hearts of millions. Money and good wishes poured in.

Hudson explained "Schoep falls asleep every night when he is carried into the lake. The buoyancy of the water soothes his arthritic bones. Lake Superior is very warm right now, so the temperature of the water is perfect."

Through unsolicited funds, John was able to get expensive joint laser treatments to reduce Schoep's pain and swelling related to his arthritis and extend his life. "Schoep is doing incredible right now," Unger said. It's like turning back the clock a year and a half. He's walking so much faster," the 49-year-old Unger said. "It's unbelievable."

Paying it forward...

John was inspired by the outpouring of love and funds so he launched a foundation to help low-income families care for their aging canines. Unger says Schoep's Legacy Foundation has raised more than \$25,000 since he and Schoep, were photographed by John's friend, Hannah, who posted the image to Facebook. The foundation's current funds "could help another 30 or 40 Schoeps," Schoep's Vet, Erik Haukass said.

<http://www.facebook.com/Schoep.and.John>

FRIENDS

Southwest City Dog Park Best Place to Make Best Friends!

Dexter and Koda



Lily and Polly



Macklind and Ollie



Partlie and Shyanne



If your 4-Legged has made a "Best Friend"
At SWCDP – send a photo and note to

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

Maybe yours will be featured in the next newsletter!

4-Leggeds Lost + 4-Leggeds Found

Did you know



Please post info
For lost dogs

And

Spread the word

St Louis Lost Pets

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

This site is updated every hour and 90% of all lost or dumped dogs end up at one of the three facilities.

<http://www.stllostpets.org/>

Did you know



The APA offers
microchip for

\$30

http://www.apamo.org/Home_1.aspx

SWCDP Yahoo Group

Kudos to SWCDP members who do such an amazing job of helping owners find their naughty 4-Leggeds who every now and then escape the safety of their homes – and those who work tirelessly with various rescue groups – making herculean efforts to find good homes for the way too many abandoned dogs. It is really great to see how everyone jumps on the news immediately and comes together to get the word out. In addition to our Yahoo Group, you might want to also post here:

<http://stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpaws/>



Honey's Story

An occasional dog park member, (Tonya (Maddi), hosted Honey while her primary foster family took extended vacation) – lives with Jen and Cliff S, as

she waits for her forever home.

Cliff shared:

We found Honey abandoned in front of our house last fall, scared, hungry, and significantly underweight. But as soon as she had some food in her belly, her sweetness and eagerness to please were evident. It did not take long to realize Honey was a special dog. Honey is playful, sweet, protective, & energetic. Honey plays well with other dogs, is good around children, knows several commands, loves playing fetch and keep away. A bull terrier/boxer mix, Honey is about 2 years old, fixed, in good health – and a joy to love.



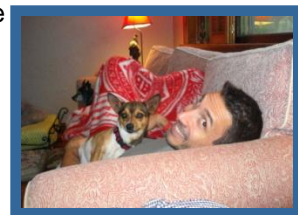
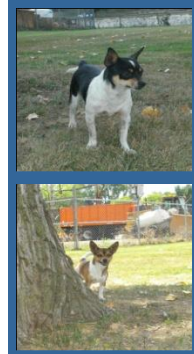
Meet Honey on Oct 27

A Very Good Deed, Indeed!

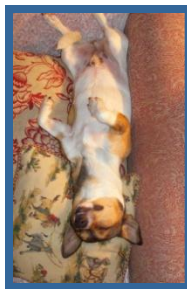
In August Bobbi N was driving through the park as usual. Her 4-Legged family (Biscuit, Zipper, May, Maureen) had a nice visit to our dog park and they were on their way for the customary trip to McDonalds for their morning treat. But before they made it through the park, some activity caught Bobbi's eye. Enter two adorable 4-Leggeds.

We'll let Bobbi tell the story...

Two dogs were hanging around the Utility Building and it seemed as if they were dumped, left with a ceramic dog bowl full of water. They were very curious and playful when I approached them. It took about 45 minutes to earn their trust, luring them into my car. I took them to Affton Vet Clinic to see if they were chipped, they were not. I named them **Cowboy & Indian** and set up a nice apartment in our basement for these two pee-ers. I posted FOUND DOG reports on the internet, with nobody claiming them. After a couple of weeks, my friend adopted Indian (renaming him Henry) and Mike fell in love with Cowboy, so we kept him. Cowboy enjoys standing on the front window sill watching the neighbors go about their business. Henry is doing well with his new family. He has a full wardrobe and



a ton of little girl's dolls to destroy. He is a terrible humper and he is very attracted to our fat May. When the boys meet up Cowboy licks Henry (Indian) all over his face, in a Mafia Familia kind of way. We think our boy is a rabble rouser and very happy cowboy!



Meet Cowboy on Oct 27

Agility Tips ... and more

Do You Know Your Dog's Jump Height?



Measure your 4-Legged from the ground to the top of his "withers", or shoulders (which is the highest point at the nape of the neck, where the bottom of the neck meets the back). Measure him from the side, use a yardstick or measuring tape.

AKC Jump Heights

10" and under at the withers:	8" jump height
Over 10" and under 14" at the withers:	12" jump height
Over 14" and under 18" at the withers:	16" jump height
Over 18" and under 22" at the withers:	20" jump height
Over 22" at the withers:	24" jump height

SAFETY FIRST...

The AKC recommendation is for safety reasons.

Please don't attempt to push your 4-Legged beyond the recommended jump height. By doing so you risk injuring your dog. Potential injuries include sprain, fracture, or with repeated jumping – future hip or joint troubles.



The goal is not "how high" but rather to establish team work and improve your canine's focus, coordination, following your directions, and speed.

Have Fun!

Agility Gate

Keep it closed

Dogs inside the Agility Area must be with their human – supervision is required.

Sand bags and strapping have been repeatedly pulled off the tunnel and recently 2 bag covers have been destroyed – and poop is not being picked up. **Sounds like unsupervised canines** to us. Be responsible – keep the gate closed, and watch your dog.

Thank you

What's Inside SWCDP Agility Area?

Agility Tutoring



Jumps



Jumps



Start/Stop Target



Tunnel



Tunnel



Pause Table



Pause Table



Weave Poles and



Training Wings and



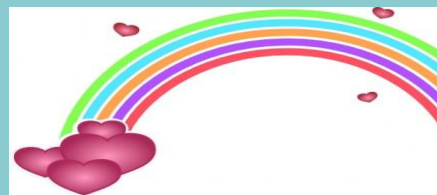
Training Walls



Training Ladder



Rainbow Bridge



Murphy passed away one year ago September 19th. He was a loyal and honorable companion to myself and Wayne. We often wished we could be as "cool" as Murphy when life threw us curveballs. Nothing seemed to rattle him. If Murphy were to have a profession, it would have been to be a chocolate sniffer. He could find chocolate anywhere and scared us to death one Christmas when he ate an entire bag of Hershey's kisses, foil and all and it didn't even faze him.



Murphy

Murphy always knew to stand next to the BBQ when we were grilling, as if to say, hey, I'll keep an eye on the meat for you". Eventually we got clever and put a few hot dogs on the grill for him.

He was very protective over me and often stood on guard whenever my husband was working nights, only to relax when Wayne came home. When we brought home Maggie, his first basset sibling, she refused to get into her crate but instead Murphy would go into it to "escape" her puppy antics. They soon grew fond of each other and he grew to tolerate her. Murphy will always have a very special place in our hearts as a gentle and stoic soul who was devoted and full of love for us. We love him and miss him tremendously.

Angela & Wayne M

Born 09/26/98

RIP 09/26/12

Rowdy was a 14 year old Chow / Siberian mix and Rowdy recently passed on his birthday.

He and Cinnamon have been going to the dog park for the last 9 months. He always looked forward to going and enjoyed his visits.



SWCDP members have shared that Rowdy was a respected "elder" on the playground. He took a particular liking to some of the Golden Retrievers, as they reminded him of his former canine companion of 9 years, Tamarack. We adopted Rowdy at 3 months old. His favorite spot was under the dining room table. He mastered the "high five" command. He was always excited to go for walks, even into his golden years. He was saddened when he lost his female canine companions, of which he lost 2 in his lifetime. The new dogs we brought home always cheered him up.

Rowdy was like a member of the family to us. It's hard to express how much we'll miss him. He was a true companion. It was really tough letting him go, but we know he's not suffering anymore and is very much at peace. We're thankful for the time we had with him. He had a long and great life.

Steve S & Kay J

If you have interesting stories, news, or memorials for SWCDP newsletter ...

Send info to Judi (Willow) at willow.nic07@yahoo.com



Turf Report



Turf management at the dog park

~~ ongoing, challenging, necessary ~~

Thank you SWCDP members – leaders and crews, all

It's only a dog park!

Well, yes, it's a dog park – and our 4-Leggeds could care less about the condition of the turf. In fact, the more mud and the more stink – the better. And yet – we humans keep trying.

FYI, for new members, our turf management history includes growing plenty of weeds mixed with grass, thinking the “toughness” of the weeds would be our best path to durability.

The problem is – many of those weeds die off with the cold weather – and we are left with dirt – plenty of brown stuff...and the dreaded mud. And last season was absolutely the worst, in terms of mud. We hope the drainage improvements from **BIG DIG I & II** will deter some of the water issues around Water Station 1 & 3, but the turf sturdiness is still a challenge.

You may have noticed the gorgeous new grass recently grown in the mid-section across from Water Station 3. This area, along with the current area which is protected with temp fencing,



will be our **test spots**. We want to see how full grass behaves during the winter. The first cycle is the greatest challenge and risk because the young grass really needs a full year to gain it's strength – so there will be some inevitable starts and stops.

We plan to do interval seeding to avoid widespread dormancy & die off, and work towards reducing or eliminating big muddy bare spots. We also plan to do the spring work instead of hiring a contractor – and the work will be led by one of our members, Mark (*Chirpa, Chewie*), a professional landscaper. In spring, we will aerate and address the water-collecting panel of turf along the ball field fence line area. High traffic and canine urine are tough challenges, so nothing is for certain – but we will continue to seek solutions! Temp fence will come down late November.



Did You Know?

Cool weather grass - fescue, blue, etc. - does not go dormant in the winter, that is why they are called cool weather grass. Cool weather grass loses its color during the winter according to the severity of the weather but continues growth cycle with focus root development rather than growing blades.



Mark puts in cool seed!

If you have been hearing the ads for fertilizer and seeding that are so common this time of year, then you have heard about root development during winter.

Seed planted in fall will often go dormant during the first heat wave of the following summer. Seed planted in spring will go dormant during a later heat wave or at the end of summer.

Dog Wash

The next dog park amenity – to be known as **BIG DIG III** – will happen through ongoing volunteerism and special fund raising. **Our dog wash will not be taken out of general operating funds.** If we want it – we have to pay for it separately. Thanks to our members, especially the very generous donations by Jerry/Sally Sears (Mable) and Carole Lehr (Cynders), we have slightly over \$3,000 in our Dog Wash Fund. Depending on how much we do ourselves, we probably will need about \$5,000 in total, more if we opt to tie the drain into the sewer line. *Under consideration:* **Dog Wash:** rinse only vs. full wash (allow soap). If we use a French drain system and our waste water only seeps into the ground – we will not allow any shampoo; the rule will be rinse water only. If we can find a doable and affordable way to tie our waste water into an outgoing system – we can offer full service (shampoo) amenities. Full amenities is high value to our members because we would have the option of washing our 4-Leggeds at the park – year round – saving hassle, time and money from washing at home or paying someone to do it. We are investigating what it will take to bring this project to full amenities – but either way, rinse or wash – the Dog Wash will be an excellent park upgrade. Rinsing – or washing – off our doggies as we leave the park (just bring a towel) would be awesome.

BIG DIG III, Part One

We will hire a contractor to dig a freeze-proof trench line (approx 500 ft) and lay the pipe and install the faucet. We can save about \$1,500 if we do the back-fill ourselves.

BIG DIG III, Part Two

The balance of the project will be done in a second wave of fund raising and another volunteer crew. This includes putting up fence/gate, digging and pouring concrete pad and gravel surround, building two-level wash table, etc.

Updated Dog Wash details will be sent in a separate communiqué



Broemmelsiek Dog Park Updates

Broemmelsiek DP Manager reports that in addition to the new dock and graveled slope to pond – they are planning a wash station improvement by moving it closer to the pond and are looking into play equipment or agility items...and more.

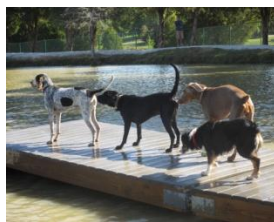
Coincidentally, our SWCDP Swim & Romp Meet Up in September was on the same day as the annual “Paws in the Park” event. We watched the Dog Docks demo and Willow was intrigued. It took Willow 3 years to gain the confidence to put her toes in the pools at our dog park (although she lays in them today) – but there was something about that dock that got the best of her.

Willow did jump – only to be shocked to find herself up to her neck in water.

No photos of that due to scrambling to help her as she tried desperately to climb out of the pond and back on to the safety of the dock. The look on her face was both funny and sad.

YIKES - Willow Takes the Plunge!

What's Up?



Whoa!



Not For Me



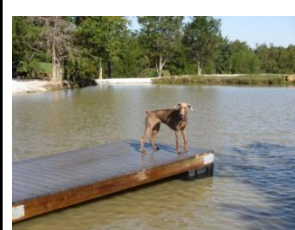
Still Curious...



Tippy Toe Away

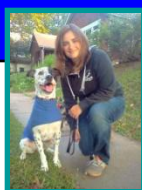


Should I Jump?



Dog Park Gear

2-Leggeds



Sloan C
(Augie)

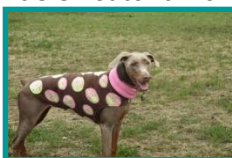
New Items – New Colors



Original Items Available, Too

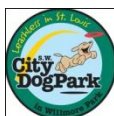
4-Leggeds

It's sweater time!



Phan C
(Prima, Blake)

The **solid colors** – anything you can imagine, is likely available. The **patterns** change frequently but there is something for everyone...fun, crazy, whimsical, dainty, soft, subtle, macho, bold, you name it – we can come up with a great design for you.



Get a SWCDP patch

Sunday Senior Social

October 21, 9:00am - Noon
Alternate Dog Park

Low Key Games

Lots of Sitting & Socializing

Free Nail Trims

Free Ticket for Door Prize

Photos for SWCDP Album

Is Your 4-Legged a Senior?

		Human/Pet Age Analogy				
		Adult Size in Pounds				
		Cousins				
		0-20	21-50	51-120	121	
Pet Age	3 years	28	28	39	31	39
	4 years	32	33	34	38	42
	5 years	36	38	39	45	50
	6 years	40	43	44	52	59
	7 years	44	46	47	55	63
	8 years	48	50	51	60	69
	9 years	52	54	55	65	75
	10 years	56	58	59	70	81
	11 years	60	62	63	75	87
	12 years	64	66	67	80	93
	13 years	68	70	71	84	99
Human Age	14 years	72	74	75	88	
	15 years	76	78	79	92	
	16 years	80	82	83	96	
	17 years	84	86	87	100	
	18 years	88	90	91	104	
	19 years	92	94	95	108	
	20 years	96	98	99	112	
	21 years	100	102	103	116	

Age Analogy Chart: W. Fortney, R. Goldstein

Adult
Senior
Geriatric

Sunday, October 21 - Dog Park Gear Winter Debut – 10:00am – 4:00pm – merchandise at dog park

Custom measure your 4-Legged – for perfect fit – between 11:00 – 1:00 (or by appointment)

Merchandise at dog park Saturday, October 27 too – Order forms at Message Board, Yahoo Group, and SWCDP website



Open House

Nov 11, 2-4 pm

4015 Papin

(off Vanderventer & Manchester
old Holt Electric building)

www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org/

Southwest City Dog Park members donate pet food to the pantry four times per year so we thought you might like to see a little behind the scenes activities.



Bi-State Pet Food Pantry offers pet food to low income people & folks with financial difficulties. Efforts to keep pets in their homes rather than on the street or in rescue are succeeding – and the pantry will be expanding services. We are invited to their **Open House** on November 11 to learn about their plans and meet the volunteers.



As with most non-profits – they are always looking for volunteer help, lend a hand if you can....and please donate a bit of pet food at our next food drive (January drop off at dog park) – or check out the many drop off points around town (ongoing).



Did you know?

OpSPOT facilitates affordable spaying and neutering by area veterinarians and educates the public about responsible dog and cat care.

Recently, they collaborated with the City of St. Louis Health Dept and brought low-cost spay/neuter

services to an under-served north community. They plan to keep this vehicle to help rural and urban communities where veterinary services are not easily accessed.



ALL YOU
NEED IS
LOVE



Will You Raise Your Hand?

Our dog park continues to get better and better through the efforts of our volunteers – this 2012-2013 season, we've had more enthusiasm and volunteer help than ever.

Poop Pick Up



If you see it – pick it up



Bags Bags Bags

Yes, we always need your used plastic bags. Please pick your bag day – and bring bags on a regular basis.

Volunteer Needs



Volunteer Needs

Event Helpers

Upcoming events on **October 21 & 27** – and future events: Organize and plan, lead activities or work a table, help with set up and tear down, etc.

On-Call

Spontaneous needs pop up from time to time – be ready to show up when we put the word out that we have work to do.

BIG DIG III

Planning Team – Do we have any **plumbers** (or related skills) in our group? Help us research and plan the waste water issue.

Part One – Can you sign up to help shovel dirt to back fill the trench?

Part Two – General tasks, dig, move gravel, etc.

We have new sections in development – and could use help. Need point person to be in charge of :

Calendar On-Site & around town canine activities, dog sport events, etc.

Rainbow Bridge Coordinate articles & photos.

If you can help, contact Judi

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

Thank You to all **BIG DIG II** helpers – both during the main day and the follow up days.



Playground Memories...



Our New Pool Pad
Sheba watches Macklind



Let's Pull Together
Abbey and Tux



Always Something
Curious Loki



A Quiet Moment
Frieda has a good chew



Big Meets Little
Ron - young Lucy say hello



The Best Toy
Lou got the prize



Puppy Rumble
Louise and Zoey



Meet and Click
Mollie & Sophie, new friends



Reading Doggie News
Mable and Harley



Goodbye is a drag
Tux tries to alter the course



Goodbye is a drag
Lucille gets carried out



Goodbye is a drag
Jackson says, go if we must

