

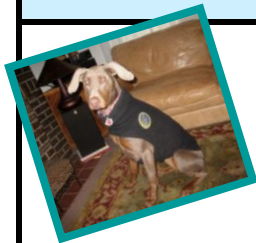


# Newsletter Summer 2012

## President's Message

*Welcome*

## 2012-2013 Season Begins



Thanks to volunteers who helped during our 2 month renovation and these early weeks of start-up. A summer photo essay will tell the story.

### Things To Remember...

#### Have Fun

We have a fantastic dog park community with great members. Let's enjoy the season together – and check out all the new amenities and upcoming new activities, too.

#### Keep Moving

Let's protect our turf. It cost thousands of dollars to get where we are today – let's maintain it. Our volunteers will make sure the watering and mowing is on schedule – but we need each of you to keep moving with your dog, don't always stand in the same place, and if you see areas that look vulnerable, just don't stand there – find a sturdier place to play or hang out. Thanks.

#### Let's Join Together

Each of you have the authority – and the responsibility – to help us enforce the rules required by the city, our insurance policy, and our own rules of membership. Members who are trying to enforce our rules and/or trying to keep trespassers out, need their fellow members to stand with them, back them up – but be nice about it.

#### **No green tag – no admittance. No exceptions.**

Members who allow non-member dogs into the dog park, or give out the code to non-members, will get an advisory warning the first time, but may be put on probation and risk losing their membership, with no dues refunded, for a second breach of our rules. Seriously, folks, we need to do a better job of keeping non-members out of the park. Anyone bringing a dog without current tags into the dog park is considered a trespasser – they have not signed the waiver or acceptance of responsibility for their dog.

**Judi N**

[willow.nic07@yahoo.com](mailto:willow.nic07@yahoo.com)

(Willow, the Dobie Girl)

### Agility

#### **Team Work - Exercise - Brain Work**

Agility is great fun – strengthens the bond with your 4-Legged. Agility helps your canine gain self-confidence and coordination. Southwest City Dog Park is excited to offer our members a casual way to become familiar with the sport. No need for competitive track – just have fun with your canine and other dog park members.



#### **Redirect energy**

**Meatball says it beats a time-out!**

#### Coming Soon

#### **Tunnel Saddle Bags**

*Thank You*  
Anonymous Donor

#### **Intro to Agility**



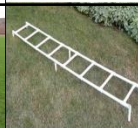
Learn about agility – get **free tips** – try out the equipment under guidance of professional. Fun, low-key, no pressure.

#### Wish List

#### **Tire Jump**



#### **Training Ladder**



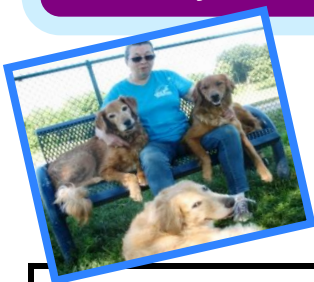
#### **Agility Gate** **Keep it closed**

Unattended dogs & dog poop is a problem. Please respect the rules.



# Secretary Report

By Joan L (Rusty, Casey, Bisky)



*Check the bulletin  
board for dog  
member list*



We are already 3 weeks into the new dog park year. I hope everyone has been enjoying the park. We have 300 families that account for 432 4-Legged members. You have probably noticed a lot of new faces – we have 64 new member families.

I would like to ask all of our previous members to help new members become acclimated to the park. Make them feel welcome – and help them get comfortable with our rules and why we ask of our members the things we ask.

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

I will be posting a monthly list of current dog park members (human first name only, dog name, breed, color) – you will find the list hanging on the message board at the dog park entry. If someone says they are a paid member and they are not on the list, tell them to contact me [secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com). If they are on the list, you can let them in, but do not give them the code. If they lost the code, they can contact me.

## Summer Calendar

Mark Your Calendars



<b>Sunday June 3</b>	<b>Saturday June 23</b>	<b>Sunday June 24</b>
Kick-Off Weekend DP Gear Intro	<b>6am – 1pm</b> Bi-State Pet Pantry – Food Drop Off	<b>2pm – 4pm</b> Puppy Pool Party & Photo Op

### Details Developing

<b>Thursday July 12</b> 6:30– 7:30pm Intro to Agility	<b>TBD Jul-Aug</b> Canine CPR Training	<b>TBD Jul-Aug</b> Dog Behavior Play Styles
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### SWCDP Community Project

Let's help keep pets with their families who are struggling during tough economic times. Since 2010, the pantry has rapidly grown, feeding almost 550 dogs in May 2012.

**Please select dog food with  
meat as top ingredient.**

Remember your dog food  
donation - drop at dp entry

**June 23, 6:00am – 1:00pm**

[www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org](http://www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org)



### After the Dog Park Kick-Off – Aaaah!

**Emma**

Bliss

**Poppy**

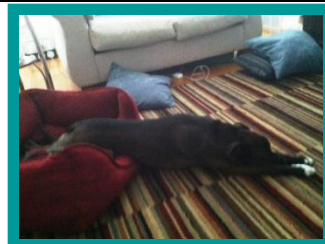
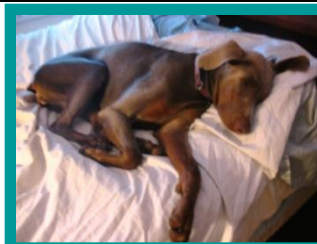
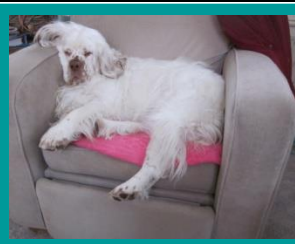
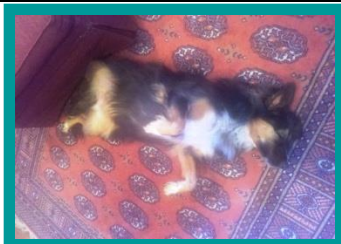
Satisfied

**Willow**

Too Much Fun

**Mojo**

Stretchin'



# SAFETY FIRST

## Thank You Vet Partners

**Larry Zeis, DVM**

Watson Animal Hospital

**Patrick Tate, DVM**

Webster Groves Animal Hospital

Michelle C (Jessie) will coordinate an on-site **EMERGENCY KIT**.

We should have this in place by mid-summer – and it will be located in one of the gray storage bins.

To include band aids, gauze, tape, antiseptic, tweezers, rags/tourniquets, stip tik, and more.



We only need \$700 more to purchase our new message board. We are looking for two more Veterinarians (\$350 donation by each) to participate in our SAFETY FIRST program. Our Vet sponsors will have a permanent plaque on the message board – and may also offer health and safety articles or on-site events (optional).

**Would your Vet like to participate?**

**SWCDP opened  
6 Years ago – this fall**

**Let's spend the summer  
planning an on-site celebration**

If you want to be on the  
6-Year Anniversary Committee  
**Contact Judi (Willow)**

## Alternate Dog Park

(formerly known as Small Dog Park)

### Be Nice – Be Fair – Share

Mostly the **Alternate Dog Park** will be used as it always has ... shy dogs, older dogs, dogs recovering from surgery or needing special assistance, etc.

We will use the **Alternate Dog Park** occasionally for special activities – and will post on Yahoo Group and on the gate and message board to provide plenty of notice before each event.

You may enjoy the space on a solo basis, as long as no other member wishes to use it. Always discuss the needs of others, and work out a fair arrangement. If it is determined that one of the dogs will not be suited to share the space – then that is the dog who must leave, immediately. But, special needs dogs should get preference over a rambunctious dog needing a time out.

4-Leggeds who have been in a scuffle (*a fight, not a wrestling match*) have lost their dog park privileges for the day.

All parties in the scuffle must **Go Home Immediately!**

### Keep the GATE CLOSED

The **Alternate Dog Park** is not a cut-thru, and those who need the space have asked to keep the gate closed. Otherwise, as they come in, lots of other dogs are freely running in and out – which essentially renders the space temporarily useless for the special needs group. Please respect this – and ask others to as well.

## Incident Reports

It is important that you report any incident requiring vet treatment or broken skin.

Forms are Available on Our website





# Why do some dogs eat poop?



## Patrick Tate, DVM

SWCDP **SAFETY FIRST** Sponsor



Raffi (L) and Reign (R)  
**Portuguese Water Dogs**

Although it is somewhat unpleasant to talk about, many pet owners have experienced coprophagia (the medical term for “eating feces”) with their dogs. Not only do dogs eat their own stool, but they often like the feces of cats, birds, deer, rabbits and others! This behavior is most common in puppies up to a year old, but can occur at any stage throughout a dog’s life.

Coprophagia is usually harmless, but *can* sometimes spread an infectious disease or parasite to your dog. It can also cause gastroenteritis that results in vomiting or diarrhea.

There are many theories about why dogs engage in this behavior, but most fall into two categories – **behavioral** or **medical**.

Sometimes a dog begins to eat feces if they have an underlying health problem such as diabetes, parasitic infections and/or gastrointestinal disease. However, other signs like vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, Lethargy and weight loss would usually be present along with the coprophagia.

When analyzing the behavioral cause of dog coprophagia, it is helpful to remember that dogs are VERY different from humans! A human does not (usually!) enjoy the smell or taste of a rotting animal carcass, spoiled food, putrid water, urine, or feces. Unfortunately, these are often favorites of our canine friends! Some dog breeds seem to practice coprophagia more than others. My two Portuguese Water Dogs love to search for “snacks” in the yard or litter pan, but my other dogs have shown little interest!



## Possible reasons some dogs eat feces

- They simply like the taste, especially when there is undigested food present. Poor digestion can happen when a dog is overfed, or eats people food. Dogs seem to especially enjoy the taste of cat feces, perhaps because of the flavor of high-protein cat food.
- They are bored and looking for something to do.
- They are stressed and experiencing anxiety of some kind.
- The yard is filled with feces, and they are trying to “pick-up” and “clean-up” their environment.
- They have been punished for eliminating in the wrong place and are attempting to “hide” the evidence.

- They are trying to get attention from their owner
- They have learned coprophagia from other dogs and it has become a habit

## Helpful tips to stop your dog from eating feces

High **quality dog food** – at regular intervals

**Coprophagia Deterrent** food additive – designed to make feces taste bad. (Over the counter brands: Deter, Potty Mouth, Nasty Habit – Always check with your vet before using!)

Add **pineapple** or **pumpkin** to your dog’s food. Dogs don’t mind the taste but it may make their feces unappealing.

Teach your dog the “**Leave It!**” command and try to catch them in the act.

Plenty of **exercise** and **mental stimulation** – try walking your dog on-leash until he has a bowel movement

Keep your dog’s living area and yard clean. **Pick up the poop!**

*Caution:* Some people say that putting hot sauce or cayenne pepper on feces will deter a dog, but I do not recommend trying it.

**Webster Groves Animal Hospital**  
8028 South Big Bend Blvd  
**314/968-4310**

Comprehensive veterinary care  
advanced and affordable  
for all types of pets

**7 days a week, 24 hours a day**  
**[www.webstervets.com](http://www.webstervets.com)**



# Water Water Water. . . Our 4-Leggeds Love It!

## Watering Station Identifiers

### Water Station 1



Original water  
Faucet – Freeze  
Proof – use  
Nov 1 – March 31  
(hose only 11/1-3/31)

### Water Station 2



Located next to  
Sta. 1 – No hose  
bib - Not freeze  
proof – use  
Apr 1 – Oct 31

### Water Station 3



Located near  
Agility – with hose  
bib - Not freeze  
proof – use  
Apr 1 – Oct 31

### Water Station 4



Located in Alternate  
Dog Park – with  
hose bib – Not  
Freeze proof – use  
Apr 1 – Oct 31

### Water Station 5

Freeze proof – year round use  
**Proposed Dog Wash**



## Cool New Pool



**Thank You**

**Rosemary & John W (Gus)**

**Jane C (Girlie)**

For research, shopping, and donations  
to bring us our new oval tub. We love it!

We are working on the  
muddy areas  
around the pools –  
**Please help us**

**Dog  
Wash**

Can we  
make it  
happen?

**Goal: \$5,000**

**Current Cash: \$3,000**

Our target goal is between \$4,000 - \$5,000. For safety reasons, we prefer to hire a contractor to do the heavy equipment operation to dig a deep freeze-proof trench and lay the pipe. They need to dig under the fence, and around electric lines and sprinkler lines. We could save money by using our members to do the back fill – which is moving the dirt back into the trench by hand and doing all the final above ground work, like fencing, gravel/cement pad, washing table, etc. We will get bids in July and fine tune a cost and an installation time table so that the project may be completed this summer, or as soon as we have the funds.

**Please consider donating what you feel the amenity is worth to you.** We would like to have our dog wash area in place before we lose our warm weather turf. **Every \$10-25 helps**, so just give what you can.

**Make check payable to: Southampton Neighborhood Association, put “Dog Wash” on the check, and**

**Mail to: PO Box 5183, St Louis, MO 63139 – put SWCDP on envelope.**



**\$1500**



**\$1500**

Many thanks to

**Jerry & Sally S (Mable)**

**and Carole L (Cynders)**

for their very generous donations. Great start!



# Turf Report

News Flash....turf management at the dog park – is a full time responsibility.  
We need help with ongoing repairs - improvements.



THANK YOU



## Keepin' It Clean



### Ron D (Elvis & Boris)

Ron heads up our trash removal; his efforts keep the poop bags moving to the curb. By keeping this task “in-house”, we save over \$2,000 annually. It would be nice for folks to give Ron a hand from time to time. Also, we need back up help 2-3 times per year when Ron is traveling – his favorite thing to do, next to hanging with dog park pals.

## Our New Pathway



Our gravel and stepping stone pathway was made possible by partial funding from our operating funds, a special construction team of volunteers – and cash donations from ...

### Linda R (Nik)



### Julie D (Otis & Louie)



### Bev D (Maggie)



### Karl L (Sasha)



Not photo'd  
Ron &  
Sheila B  
(Macgregor  
& Maisie)

## Mud Closing

SWCDP Hot Line  
**314/567-2012 #2**



Call our general  
Message Center Phone  
and hit our hotline #2

To protect our turf and keep the green stuff growing as long as possible, SWCDP management will close the dog park after prolonged or heavy rains or melting of large amounts of ice or snow. We will not close after brief showers, but ask that you use your own judgment when coming to the park. **ALWAYS**

check our Hotline Line, it will be updated, as closings and openings require. We appreciate your cooperation with the Mud Closing Policy. This policy requires additional work and commitment to our Dog park by our volunteers. Because of this, we ask that some of you who live close to the park help out by taking on the duty of locking the gate – maybe on a rotating basis, monthly or quarterly. Contact Judi N (Willow) or Joan L (Rusty, Casey, Bisky) if you would like to help with the task of protecting our turf.

## About those hay stacks

The hay stacks are new – and are intended as climbing/play stations for the 4-Legges. We used hay stacks last year; the dogs enjoyed them. These are fresh ones; we will replace when they get too stinky from our boy dogs doing what boy dogs do. Hay is placed close to benches because our canines like to be near their humans. We realize the stacks will kill the grass on which they sit. That is ok. Moving the stacks only kills more turf.

## About water run-off

With all of our water use – and all of the water discussions – some of you may not realize this – but all of our water run-off basically must drain into the soil – which is very hard packed – and it takes time for large amounts of water to drain. None of our water goes into any type of sewer system, other than short pvc pipes that takes the water away from the source – only a few feet – then it must eventually drain into the soil.



# Dog Park Gear

Our volunteers heading up this great project

## Gear for 4-Leggeds    Gear for 2-Leggeds



Phan C  
(Prima & Blake)

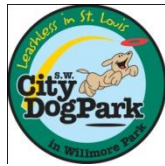


Sloan C  
(Augie)

**Thank You**

Just as you wear your favorite sports team logo or school emblem on a variety of gear – we hope you will join us as we celebrate membership at Southwest City Dog Park. We have one of the best dog parks in the Metro area – be a proud member and show your enthusiasm for our dog park by wearing SWCDP gear as you interact with your friends and community at large.

**Buy Gear!**



**Order forms at dog park message board, in Files on Yahoo Group, and on website**

## Adopt a School

We enjoyed (*for free*) the use of  
**Buder Elementary School Cafeteria**  
for our annual General Membership Meeting (GMM)  
and would like to build a relationship – and use their facilities for future meetings.

Might be nice to donate a few school supplies, as a thank you.  
Judi (or a volunteer) will coordinate this in late July or early August – if we have  
enough interest. Grab an extra pack of paper, file folders,  
crayons/markers, etc. next time you are  
shopping for office/school supplies.

**What do you think?**





## Will You Raise Your Hand?

### Volunteers Needed This Season

#### Pet Food Pantry

Need a 2<sup>nd</sup> person to coordinate delivery

#### Mud Closing

Need 3 people to rotate locking/unlocking gate

#### Incident Committee

Need 2-3 people to review problems, counsel humans, monitor

#### School Coordinator

Collect-deliver school supplies to Buder School

#### Web Site

Desperately need HTML skills, help Joan & Judi update web content

#### Turf Management

Need leader of group & a few more folks-share ongoing turf related tasks, small and large

#### Agility

Put away-set up before & after lawn mowing, coordinate activities

#### SAFETY FIRST

Assemble-refill on-site emergency kit; vets may supply, coordinate this

#### Anniversary Party

Help plan or work at the fall on-site party

#### Gear Control Sheet

Manage in-out orders, production schedule; this can be done electronically

#### Be On-Call

For anything that pops up



#### **Bob H (King)**

Bob has been involved in most dog park projects – from renovation and repair, turf management to donating and building our temporary shelter last winter. In addition to saving us lots of contractor costs – many things would not have happened without Bob's donation of skills and time.  
**SWCDP Mr. Fix-It**



#### **Kay & Steve S**

(Cinnamon and Rowdy)

Kay has donated lots of office supplies as well as flowers and painting tools for our agility fencing project. She has also been our safety net for the last few events – making sure we got whatever we needed – or forgot to bring – on multiple occasions.

**SWCDP Go To Gal**

### Thank You



### Thank You

#### **Adam & Karyl K**

(Marlie, Lily)

#### **Amy L (Layla)**

#### **Angela & Wayne M**

(Molly, Maggie)

#### **Bev D (Maggie)**

#### **Bob B (Lily)**

#### **Bob H (King)**

#### **Bobbi & Mike N**

(Zipper, May, Biscuit, Maureen)

#### **Carole L (Cynders)**

#### **Chris G (Sheeba)**

#### **David & Sue K**

(Zoey, Annie, Louie)

#### **Jane C (Girlye)**

#### **Jane S (Rosie, Abigail, Jack, Bill)**

#### **Jerry & Sally S (Mable)**

#### **Jim D (Joey, Sophie)**

#### **Joan L**

(Rusty, Casey, Bisky)

#### **Joe R (Scooby)**

#### **Jordan H (Bleu)**

#### **Judi N (Willow)**

#### **Julia & Dave M (Wally)**

#### **Julie D (Otis, Louie)**

#### **Kara R (Fozzi)**

#### **Karl L (Sasha, Goldie)**

#### **Katie & Tim M (Lenore)**

#### **Kay & Steve J**

(Cinnamon, Rowdy)

#### **Ken M (Kaz)**

#### **Kris S (Marko, Lucy)**

#### **Larry Z (Bella, Hattie)**

#### **Leimomi S (Maddie)**

#### **Linda R (Nik)**

#### **Lisa C (Gidget)**

#### **Lisa M (Jake)**

#### **Lisa L (Lucy, Tez)**

#### **Lissa J (Emma)**

#### **Liz G (Nina, Stella)**

#### **Lori J**

(Meatball, Luke)

#### **Mark B**

(Chewbacca, Chirpa)

#### **Mary R (Jazz, Tristan)**

#### **Michelle C (Jessie)**

#### **Patricia S (Mocha)**

#### **Phan & Tom C**

(Blake, Prima, Sheegwa)

#### **Richard & Mary Jane**

(Libbee)

#### **Rita M (Doe)**

#### **Ron & Sheila B**

(MacGregor, Maisie)

#### **Ron D (Elvis, Boris)**

#### **Rosemary & John W**

(Gus)

#### **Sarah F (Gracie)**

#### **Scott & Erin M**

(Luna, Huey)

#### **Sloan C (Augie)**

#### **Steve W (Sunny)**

#### **Sue M (Jake, Gracie)**

#### **Terese E (Junior)**

#### **Tim L (Mollie)**

#### **Tom M (Lucky, Lucy)**

#### **Tom & Margie Z**

(Mario)

#### **Trish T (Sassy, Gunnie)**

#### **Tyler & Emily M (Fiona)**