



S.W. City Dog Park

in Willmore Park

Next Membership Period

runs from Sept 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012

Dues are pro-rated. Renew now!

Autumn 2011

Letter from the President

As my days as an active member of the board draw to an end, I want to send a thank you to the many members of the dog park who assisted me on the landscaping committee and now as president. Prior to the sprinklers there were many who helped put up and take down temporary fences to get the grass to grow. There were also the teams of people who assisted in watering the park during the spring maintenance shut down. I especially want to thank Amber, KC and Michelle who returned annually to be sure that the grass seed was where it needed to be.

I also want to thank the various members of the beautification committee that keep the entrance to the park looking gorgeous. A special thanks to Carol, Jane and the Kents. There are not words that can thank Ron and Susan for taking care of the nasty job of the trash with a smile.

As president, there are the members of the board and committees who keep the park going: Joan, secretary, who maintains meticulous records and can readily retrieve them; Kristi, our SNA representative and treasurer, who organizes our budget and guards it as if it is her own; the incidence committee of Mindy, Jane, Mary, and Judy; Nancy and Patricia who pull together the newsletter; and finally Don, who organized the installation of the sprinkler system and the watering stations.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, there is always room for more active volunteers. Even if you don't feel like you can be a committee chair or board member, we need people who are willing to take part in those committees and help make the dog park the best it can be.

Again, thank you to the members, named and unnamed, who volunteer their time to keep the Southwest City Dog Park the best.

— Annette (Zoey and Auggie)
President, Southwest City Dog Park

Use of the smaller dog park

There is a need to clarify the use of the smaller dog park. (Notice I didn't say "small" dog park.) The park is meant for use by members who have smaller dogs or infirmed dogs who are not able to be in the larger dog park – especially in times of larger crowds.

If your dog is showing aggressive behavior, such as mounting, ears back,

low or tucked tail, growling or stiff posture, they are telling you they need to go home. If the smaller dog park is available and your dog will calm there, by all means use it. If other members who have small or infirmed dogs are already in the smaller park or want to use the park, they have priority, and the dog with the aggressive behavior needs to leave the park.

Forget the treadmill

excerpt from *The New York Times*

Several studies now show that dogs can be powerful motivators to get people moving.

Not only are dog owners more likely to take regular walks, but new research shows that dog walkers are more active over all than people who don't have dogs.

One study even found that older people are more likely to take regular walks if the walking companion is canine rather than human.

"You need to walk, and so does your dog," said Rebecca A. Johnson, director of the human-animal interaction research center at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. "It's good for both ends of the leash."

Just last week, researchers from Michigan State University reported that among dog owners who took their pets for regular walks, 60 percent met federal criteria for regular moderate or vigorous exercise. Nearly half of dog walkers exercised an average of 30 minutes a day at least five days a week. By comparison, only about a third of those without dogs got that much regular exercise.

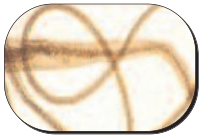


READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE

well.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/forget-the-treadmill-get-a-dog/

ALL THE DIRT ON POOP

Intestinal Worms



Whipworms – Max steps in a pile of whipworm-infested feces. Then he carries it home on his paws, spreads some around your home and yard, and licks the rest off his feet.

Symptoms: Inapparent infestations, nonspecific diarrhea, blood-streaked diarrhea, unthriftiness, weight loss. Whipworms can precipitate recurring diarrhea and colitis. Since adult whipworms may not lay eggs every day, a fecal flotation may not reveal the infestation.



Hookworms – Buddy is relaxing in the shade. Guess what? Hookworm larva are able to penetrate the intact skin of dogs.

Symptoms: Inapparent infestations, nonspecific diarrhea, dark black (tarry) diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, poor or no appetite, pale mucous membranes in the mouth, generalized pallor, weakness, emaciation, poor growth, anemia.



Roundworms – Lucy grabs a toy off the ground and gets a mouthful of roundworm eggs, which can survive for years in the soil.

Symptoms: Dull coat, pot-bellied unhealthy appearance, poor weight gain, vomiting, coughing, intermittent diarrhea or constipation. Roundworm larva have blinded young children and caused countless other problems.

For more information
www.dr-dan.com/newslett.htm

You never know what worms and parasites other dogs are bringing into the dog park. Once-a-month topical treatments may help control many types of worms as well as fleas, but does everyone use them?

The next best way to prevent the spread of nasty things in the dog park is to
KEEP IT CLEAN.

When you dispose of ANY poop you happen to see, the dog (and vet bills) you save may be your own!

Flies



In the past few months, you may have seen a half-dozen flies already buzzing around your dog's business by the time you get there to pick it up. What do you think they're doing?

They are laying eggs. A fly egg will hatch into a larva in only a few hours. In two more weeks they become reproductive adults. An adult female will lay several thousand eggs over the next few weeks. Is it any wonder we've been constantly swatting flies this summer?

Flies have leg hairs that carry particles of feces with them wherever they go, thus spreading germs wherever they land. If that's not bad enough, the fly also vomits onto the surface of its landing site.

And where are they landing? On us! Sometimes they bite. They can transmit typhoid, cholera, salmonella, bacillary dysentery, tuberculosis, anthrax, and parasitic worms.

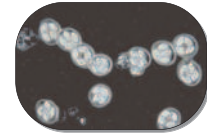
For more information
www.asktheexterminator.com/flies/

Parasites



Giardia – Stella runs through some giardia-infested feces that didn't get picked up. Then she jumps into the swimming pool where all the dogs play and lap up water.

Symptoms: Diarrhea, weight loss, generally poor condition, and even death when the disease is serious. Some dogs show no signs of the infection.



Coccidia – YOU step in coccidia-infested poop. Buster is a naughty puppy who likes to chew on your shoes when you're not watching. Now he's a sick puppy.

Symptoms: Diarrhea; bloody diarrhea and even death in severe cases. May not cause any signs in dogs; usually more serious in puppies.

For more information
www.petsandparasites.org/dog-owners/



and one good thing...

Dragonflies

Hurrah! Willmore Park's dragonflies have emerged, and our plague of flies and gnats has disappeared for now. A dragonfly can eat food equal to his/her own body weight every 30 minutes. They are darting all over the dog park in iridescent splendor, catching pests in their basket-shaped grabbing limbs.

For more information
www.dragonfly-site.com

Seat belts for dogs



Mocha models her seat belt harness.

Have you ever had to slam on your brakes or suddenly swerve to avoid an accident? You might want to consider using a safety restraint for your dog in the car.

There are different styles of restraints available. A dog harness attached to the car seat belt can allow a dog some freedom to sit or lie down. Another option is to install a safety barrier between the front and back seats.

A tethered crate is more suitable for smaller dogs.

As pointed out in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article ("Get in the Car, Fasten Your Seat Belt, That's a Good Boy!"), a loose dog can become a "projectile in the car" in the event of an accident, and frightened or protective dogs can prevent emergency responders from rescuing victims.

Safety restraints for dogs can be found at pet stores and online.

Secretary's Corner

Rusty had ear surgery so I haven't been to the park in a month. I hope everyone made it through July OK. It was the fourth hottest July on record. Now we move on to August. I hope it cools off.

As I am sure most of you are aware, we will be starting our new dog park year Sept. 1. As you will notice, the dog park year will extend only until May 31, 2012. We have adjusted the dog park year to coincide with our spring downtime. This way we will have only one reopening per year. The registration fees have been adjusted accordingly.

Only 2011-2012 applications will be accepted. I have sent new applications to all members via email or snail mail. If you did not receive an application you can get one off the website or the yahoo group. I will be placing some hard copies in the bin at the park before the end of the month. I would prefer that you use the ones on the website or yahoo group if possible.

I will try to set up a couple of times before Sept. 1st to let members register at the park and immediately obtain their new tags. I can't set a definite date or time yet. I will put a notice on the yahoo group when I have scheduled the times.

2010-2011 Member Statistics

We have 466 families with 658 dogs who belong to the park. 405 families are city residents – 37 of these are also SNA members. 61 families are non-city residents.

Thanks to all the members for helping to make this another great dog park year. Stay cool and see you at the park.



— Joan (Rusty and Casey)

Pet Connections



Tom Bolbach, owner

If you enjoy exploring pet stores, consider putting the Pet Connections shop on your list of places to visit. Located at 2214 S. Vandeventer (about a block east of Kingshighway), the Pet Connections has a wide range of food and a variety of supplies. If you're looking for something that is not in stock, owner Tom Bolbach will be happy to order it for you. Well-behaved dogs are welcome to come in and help their owners shop!

HOURS

Mon-Fri 10am-6pm • Sat-Sun 10am-4pm

Our Volunteers

ANNETTE is stepping down as President. Annette has been very involved since the early days of the park. She has coordinated the landscaping, obtained maintenance contractors, fought with the gate every year, been a leader as President, and has many more accomplishments too numerous to mention. Please join the dog park board in thanking her so much for all she has done. We really hate to lose her.

PRESIDENT
vacant

TREASURER
Kristi (Max)

SECRETARY
Joan (Rusty & Casey)

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE (vacant)

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

NEWSLETTER
Nancy (Daisy) • Patricia (Mocha)

If you would like to volunteer for a board position or committee, or have any questions or comments, please email Joan at secretary.swdogpark@gmail.org

Dog Days of Summer



Rover Reporter

letz go swimmin!

All dog swims require proof of vaccinations. Please check with each facility for additional requirements/rules.

Maplewood Dog Swim

7550 Lohmeyer • Maplewood, MO
www.laduenews.com/other/calendar/events/

Sept 11, 4-8pm • Sept 12, 1-5pm
Sept 13, 1-5pm

\$10 per dog/2 adults per day
\$25 per dog/2 adults for a 3-day pass
\$5 per day per person without a dog

U City Puppy Pool Party

Heman Park Swimming Pool
7210 Olive Blvd • University City, MO
www.universitycity.patch.com/events/

Sept 10, 1-4pm
\$10 per dog

North Pointe Family Aquatic Center

14811 Manchester • Ballwin, MO
<http://www.ballwin.mo.us>

Sept 6, 4:30-7:30pm
\$10 per dog

POOL PAWS FOR HUMANE LAWS DOG SWIMS

www.maal.org/Events_Pool_Paws.asp

Kirkwood Aquatic Center

111 S. Geyer Road • Kirkwood, MO
Sept 6, 5-7pm • Sept 8, 6-8pm

\$10 per dog/owner • \$3 each add'l person

Splash at Wabash

501 N. Florissant Road • Ferguson, MO
Sept 7, 6-8pm • Rainout Sept 8, 6-8pm
\$10 per dog/owner • \$3 each add'l person

Alligator's Creek Aquatic Center

403 Civic Park Drive • O'Fallon, MO
Sept 10, 11am-2pm

Rainout date: Sept 11, 11am-2pm
\$10 per dog/owner • \$3 each add'l person



Photo: Marnie Kunz



through October 2 • Laumeier Sculpture Park • Free

12580 Rott Road • 314.615.5278 • dogs welcome!

www.laumeiersculpturepark.org/Dog_Days

MUSEUM HOURS

Tues-Fri 10am-5pm • Sat-Sun 12pm-5pm

The exhibition can also be visited during extended hours on
Aug 25 and Sept 22 from 5-8pm with dog sitters available.

Laumeier Sculpture Park presents *Dog Days of Summer*, featuring the work of ten artists spanning nearly three centuries in both the indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces. The show explores the relationship between humans and canines as depicted in visual art, from an 18th century drawing to a 21st century site-specific installation. The mutual impact humans and dogs have had on each other over time is a particular focus.

The centerpiece of the exhibition will be a **commissioned dog trail** by Finnish artist Tea Mäkipää, who has created a multi-sensory experience for both canine and human visitors along Laumeier's Nature Trail. Six interactive stations will highlight how our four-legged friends experience the outdoors.

Yappy Hour! • August 25 and September 22 • 5-8pm

A series of free informative and entertaining cocktail parties. In addition to entertainment, vendors and animal rescue groups will offer information and adoption opportunities. A cash bar and snacks will also be available.

Tours • August 27 • 9am & 10am

Free docent-led tours for dogs and their humans will be offered at 9am (outdoor tour) and 10am (indoor tour with dog sitters available).

Panel Discussion • September 17 • 1pm

A panel discussion exploring the relationship between dogs and humans will take place in the Museum Galleries.

Videos by William Wegman • Sunday-Friday evenings through August 31

On the 10-foot-long video wall in Citygarden, downtown St. Louis.

Meet...

Meet King, a 3½-year-old shepherd husky mix. Give this handsome dog a pat when he strolls over to say hello to you... because King comes to the dog park to visit with the humans as much as to play with the dogs. He is even willing to hop up on a bench to make it easier for you to pet him. His owner, Bob, says King is a bench dog at the park and a lap dog at home!

Thank you, Bob, for dismantling and disposing of the rickety picnic table!

King waits on the bench for someone to pet him.



King