



# Quickie News

Stuff That Just Can't Wait Until Next Newsletter

January 12, 2015

## Back to Reality

Year end is always busy – and hopefully, everyone had time for fun and special times with family and friends during the Holidays. But now, 2014 is history and SWCDP enters the final 90 Day period of our 2014-2015 Season. In fact, as this Quickie News is distributed, we have only 78 days before we close the playground and prepare new turf for the 2015-2016 Season. Stay tuned....more info on this forthcoming, and yes, we will need plenty of helpers.

## Membership Status

We will continue to accept membership applications for the current season through Feb 28. As of 1/12/15, we have 440 memberships and 615 dogs. An updated Dog Roster will be posted on community message board this week.

## Trespasser Outbreak

We have experienced several non-members using our facilities throughout the season – this is an ongoing problem. The last 6-8 weeks in 2014 seemed to be the highest count reported, almost epidemic – see report on page 2.

Please keep your eyes open, if a dog does not have a SWCDP tag – it is highly likely not a member. Check the Dog Roster. Explain our rules, escort to the gate, show the application box at the gate. If you are hesitant to do this alone, seek other members to help. If the person refuses to leave, call one of the numbers listed on Emergency List on our primary message board. No one should be allowed to stay on the grounds if they are not legitimate members.

## Management & Member Challenge

We ask all to hang in there – and work together – as we go through this period of extraordinary intruders and lapse of following rules by a few. All legitimate members are valuable dog park friends, and we want you to enjoy every dp visit.

Please be patient, if at this time, you are questioned about your membership status. We are working hard to balance safety, fairness, maintaining a clean and fun dog park with enforcing the rules and providing consistent management practices. A challenge!

## Tags, Collars, Leashes

*These are not "negotiable" items*

When members choose to ignore a rule – they create problems and send negative messages to fellow members. First: They don't feel the rules apply to them. Second: They dump burden of enforcement onto other members. This is not fair; our rules are only viable as effective management tools when all members comply. Just do your part and let's keep this simple. Re-read rules you agreed to follow when you signed SWCDP application and waiver.

**TAGS:** Dogs must wear current SWCDP tag at all times or human must carry with them & immediately show if asked. If you lost a tag, contact Joan immediately.

**COLLARS:** Dogs must wear acceptable collars, no spike, chain, choke types. ID and canine control are important.

**LEASHES:** Trouble can break out in seconds – if an issue comes up, leash your dog, take out of situation immediately. When a leash is needed most – there is no time to walk to the entry area to retrieve the leash. Keep it with you.

## Children on the Playground

*SWCDP playground belongs to the dogs*

Children under 8 years old are not allowed on playground – ever. Children 8 and older may accompany adult and dog – they are warmly welcomed. We understand in most families, the dog is a family member and there is a close bond. All good. For **safety reasons**, adults must prepare child before coming to playground & closely supervise on the grounds.

This means children must not run, scream, wave arms or toys, or exhibit any rough or excited type of behavior. Not all SWCDP dogs have experience with mannerisms of children. While a child may play one way with the family dog at home, playing excitedly at the dog park may send the wrong signals to other dogs. If you have spent any time at all on our playground – you know things can escalate quickly & folks can get knocked down without warning. Within seconds, we could easily have a child on the bottom of 4-5 overly excited dogs as they vie for toy or rope, etc. Be smart, be safe, error on the side of caution. We want everyone to enjoy the playground, but Safety First – and – Dogs First (*its their playground!*).

# Intruders

Please watch for these dogs or others without SWCDP tags

<p><b>Enzo</b> Mastiff or Mastiff mix Black/White</p>	<p><i>Reported week of 12/14/14, minimum 2 breaches, maybe more</i> A man usually brings Enzo, when asked about membership he claimed to be a member. Don't have much to go on yet, but this is a large dog, easy to spot on the playground.</p>
<p><b>Finn</b> Pit Bull mostly white with brownish red spots</p>	<p><i>Multiple reports in/around 12/12 &amp; 13/14, two or more breaches</i> Dog is unaltered, appeared nervous. Woman, early 20s, long brown hair, became agitated &amp; defensive when members tried to explain membership rules. She had multiple kids with her – had 1 jump fence to let group in – flipped members the finger as she left</p>
<p><b>Gussie</b> Mix, tiny, light brown/tan Maybe Pug, Boston Terrier, Chihuahua</p>	<p><i>Reported 12/07/14, possible one-time breach</i> A guy and small dog and boy under 8 were kinda swept up in the Santa photo excitement; may have just walked in with our members. Guy took photo of dog &amp; boy with Santa and were out of Alternate before we realized the situation. Went into Main.</p>
<p><b>Kota &amp; No Name</b> Pit Bull, Black (Kota) and a Black/White Terrier mix</p>	<p><i>Reported 12/12/14, ongoing usage, multiple breaches</i> Kota wears hot pink collar with name, woman claimed SWCDP tags in purse, but would not show them, kept walking away from members when questioned. Kota has shown some aggressive behavior. No info on second dog.</p>
<p><b>Pirate</b> Mix, short brown hair Maybe 35-40 lbs</p>	<p><i>Reported 12/14/14, usage since July-August, multiple breaches</i> <b>SWCDP Safety and Incident Committee reviewed this case.</b> Unanimously determined Pirate is not and has never been a legitimate member. Deep inconsistencies with the woman's membership claim. We have no record of payment, no application signed/dated package – and no unaccounted monies or tag numbers. Often has children with her.</p>
<p><b>Pony or Pony Boy</b> Spaniel-Terrier mix Brown/White, med. build</p>	<p><i>First reported 10/15/14, ongoing usage, multiple breaches</i> A guy usually comes in with 3 very young children; first report was due to Pony biting (<i>we have photo of injury</i>) one of our member dogs; they claim to be members when asked, but never show proof, come frequently – and we as yet have gotten any identifying information. Pony gets into tussles with other dogs.</p>
<p><b>No Name</b> Mix, black 13 year old dog</p>	<p><i>Reported 12/16/14, one-time breach</i> One of SWCDP members allowed woman to bring in her dog to “try it out” – the woman was confronted, apologized, said she never would have come in except for the invitation of a member; she took an application and promised to join the proper way.</p>

If possible, get car license plate number or other identifying info. Report to SWCDP.

## Odds & Ends

<b>Membership</b>	<p>Send email to Joan (SWCDP Secretary) if you have any questions related to: <b><a href="mailto:secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com">secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com</a></b></p> <p>Membership, Tags, Gate Code – Records and Safety, Incident, and Complaint Reports – Security</p>
<b>Activities &amp; Projects</b>	<p>Send email to Judi (SWCDP President) if you have any questions related to: <b><a href="mailto:willow.nic07@yahoo.com">willow.nic07@yahoo.com</a></b></p> <p>Newsletter and Member Communiqué – Events, Education, Activities and Volunteers – Policy, Process, Projects</p>
<b>Newsletter</b> <i>Looking For . . .</i>	<p><b>Stories</b> – Does your canine pal have any fun or interesting activities or experiences other than the dog park that might make a good story?</p> <p><b>Rainbow Bridge</b> – If you have lost a dear canine and wish to feature a memorial in newsletter, send request and we will guide your submission and write the article for you.</p> <p><b>Accomplishments</b> – Has your 4-Legged acquired any new skills or earned any titles/designations you might like to announce? We like to feature our SWCDP Stars – those who have earned the CGC (Canine Good Citizen) designation. We encourage our members to check into this basic good manners training. Any therapy dog stories?</p> <p><b>Adoptions</b> – Do you have a foster dog seeking a forever home, or personally know of a good dog in need of a good home? We can do a spotlight on such dog (s) to promote adoptability.</p> <p><b>Santa Photos</b> – Did your doggie attend SWCDP Santa Photo Booth on Dec 7? If so, please send a photo to Judi – we are making a Santa collage.</p> <p><b>Tongue Photos</b> – We are collecting fun photos of doggie tongues – if you have a great shot of your pooch’s tongue, send it.</p> <p><b>Snow Photos</b> – If we get good snow – please make snow figures or other interesting things on our playground and send photos.</p> <p><b>Doggie Activities Around Town</b> – If you have specifics about a dog related activity our members might like to know about, send details in time for newsletter.</p>
<b>Submission Deadline</b> <b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Grounds</b> <b>Straw</b> <b>Maze</b>

**Freezing Temps** – Water Stations 1 and 5 may freeze up during extreme temps; during such times, you might want to bring fresh water in jugs or other transport. Dogs need to stay hydrated even during cold weather.

**Straw** – We have 15 more straw bales which will complete the winter supply. Plans underway to clean up our maze with a few stronger bales, and keep the balance for turf coverage.

**Maze** – Please don’t allow dogs to dig and tear up maze. Normal wear and tear expected – but we don’t want a few dogs being destructive and ruining it for the majority who enjoy playing on the winter structure.