



Quickie News

Stuff That Just Can't Wait Until Next Newsletter



December 16
2015

Halloween Costume Ballot – Page 4 - Please Vote



Thanks to Joan L (Casey, Bisky, Caika) – the above image is the cover for Joan's personal holiday greetings card this year. We thought our SWCDP members would appreciate the humor. Fun!

Happy Howlidays!

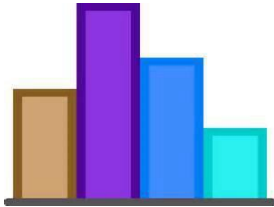
Wishing all of our dog park friends a joyful and safe Holiday Season – hope you can spend some special time with your family and friends – and of course, your beloved 4-Legged (s), too. See ya 'round the playground. We hear lots of doggies are having a blast on our winter climbing maze, and 2-Leggeds are enjoying the winter shelter.. **Please, read on . . . Check out the “quick news” – and please cast your vote for your favorite doggie costumes.**

Southwest City Dog Park



SWCDP Fall Celebration and Halloween Contest

Our event, November 1, was the best one yet – with 36 dogs showing up in delightful costumes and over 150 4-Legged visitors throughout the day. A full feature article, with loads of photos, will be in the final newsletter (March) – but for now – please enjoy the costume photos in this communiqué – and VOTE to support your favorites. Top 3 will get prizes.



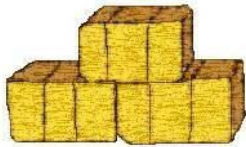
Membership Stats – As of December 15, 2015

450 Households – 639 Dogs

Breakdown:

New Members: 191 (City/151; Non-City/40)

Returning Members: 259 (City/217; Non-City/42)



Straw Bales – and Climbing Maze

Straw bales provided to cover bare/muddy spots on the playground. Members should disburse, as needed – but remember, the supply needs to last through March – and – we (*members!*) need to rake it up before the end of season – so please, do not layer the straw too deep. Enjoy the climbing maze – we will pull bales from maze in March – for now – please keep it in tact.



Holiday Foods – Your Dogs Safety

Yeah, *we know*, your pooch's eyes say "more, please" – but remember the size of your 4-Leggeds tummy. Over-indulging or allowing your dog to eat loads of people food during the holidays is not doing Fido any favors. And, foods, that are either lethal or unsafe include: macadamia nuts, avocado - alcohol - onions / garlic - coffee / tea / other caffeine - grapes / raisins - milk / other dairy products - candy / gum – chocolate - fat trimmings / bones - persimmons / peaches / plums - raw eggs - raw meat / fish - salt - sugary foods / drinks - yeast dough, uncooked - your RX - kitchen pantry (baking powder & soda, nutmeg)

<http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/ss/slideshow-foods-your-dog-should-never-eat>



March Newsletter

Send your newsworthy info or photos no later than February 10. Has your doggie had interesting experiences, earned a certificate, learned a skill; do you have a particularly great playground photo? Have you lost a beloved canine in 2015 - would you like us to write a memorial tribute?

Contact Judi (Willow): willow.nic07@yahoo.com



Poop Pick-Up – Common Courtesy – Rules

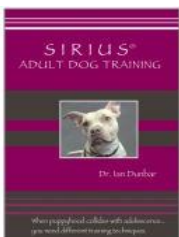
Keep an eye on your dog, keep moving or at least change play spots from time to time, anticipate bad behavior before it leads to trouble – and pick up your dog's poop. We must keep the grounds clean for health & safety reasons. Do your part.

SAFETY AND INCIDENT

Fights and Bites

Report incidents involving dog bites or serious fights – and also alert us if you know of members who repeatedly break SWCDP rules. We cannot make adjustments if we don't know about it...but, please, think twice before reporting so we don't overload our volunteer committee. Send to:

saic.incident.swcitydogpark@gmail.com



Dunbar Training Tapes –

Learn to think like a dog – and best training tips. Learn about bite inhibition, aggressive behavior, dog fights, etc. We have multiple DVDs by Ian Dunbar, DVM; plan to hold a series of viewings if we have enough members interested. The location will be determined by the number of attendees, may be at local library or a venue which allows us to partake in drinks and food, too. Contact Judi (Willow) willow.nic07@yahoo.com or Joan (Casey, Bisky, Caika) secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com for more info.

Sampling of Ian Dunbar, DVM information on aggressive – obnoxious dog behavior.

If you have a troublesome dog, or would like to learn more about dog behavior in order to better understand the dynamics of dog interaction on the SWCDP playground – please consider joining us as we view Dr. Dunbar's training tapes in a free group session. Or read more about Dr. Dunbar at www.dogstar.com

"He fights all the time! He's trying to kill other dogs!"

The fury and noise of a dogfight can be quite scary for onlookers, especially the dogs' owners. In fact, nothing upsets owners more than a dogfight. Consequently, owners must strive to be objective when assessing the seriousness of a dogfight. Otherwise, a single dogfight can put an end to their dogs' socialization. In most cases, a dogfight is highly stereotyped, controlled, and relatively safe. With appropriate feedback from the owner, the prognosis for resolution is good. On the other hand, irrational or emotional feedback, besides being upsetting for the owner, can exacerbate the problem for the dog. It is extremely common for dogs, especially adolescent males, to posture, stare, growl, snarl, snap, and maybe fight. This is not "bad" dog behavior, but rather reflects what dogs normally do. Dogs do not write letters of complaint or call their lawyers. Growling and fighting, however, almost always reflect an underlying lack of confidence, characteristic of male adolescence. Given time and continued socialization, adolescent dogs normally develop confidence and no longer feel the need to continually prove themselves. To have the confidence to continue socializing a dog that has instigated a fight, the owner must convince herself that her "fighting dog" is not dangerous. A dog may be obnoxious and a royal pain, but this does not mean he would hurt another dog. Whereas growling and fighting are normal developmental behaviors, causing harm to other dogs is decidedly abnormal and unacceptable.

First, you need to ascertain the severity of the problem. Second, you need to make sure you react appropriately when your dog fights, and give appropriate feedback when he doesn't. To know whether or not you have a problem, establish your dog's Fight-Bite Ratio. To do this you need to answer two questions: How many times has your dog been involved in a full-contact fight? And in how many fights did the other dog have to be taken to the veterinarian?

Ten-to-Zero is a common Fight-Bite Ratio for one- to two-year-old male dogs, that is, ten full-contact fights with opponents taking zero trips to the vet. We do not have a serious problem here. Obviously the dog is not "trying to kill" the other dog, since he hasn't caused any injury in ten fights. The dog would have caused damage if he had meant to. Moreover, on each occasion, the dog adhered to the Marquis of Dogsberry Fighting Rules by restricting bites to the other dog's scruff, neck, head, and muzzle. Surely, there is no better proof of the effectiveness of bite inhibition than, when in a fighting frenzy, one dog grasps another by the soft part of his throat and yet no damage is done.

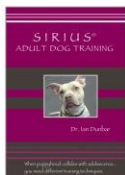
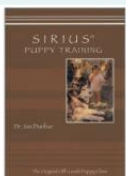
This is not a dangerous dog. He is merely socially obnoxious in the inimitable manner of male adolescents. Yes, the dog is a bit of a pain, but he has wonderful bite inhibition (established during puppyhood) and has never injured another dog. Solid evidence of reliable bite inhibition — ten fights with zero bites while adhering to fighting rules — makes it extremely unlikely that this dog will ever harm another dog.

Fights are bad news, but they usually provide good news! As long as your dog never harms another dog, each fight provides additional proof that your dog has reliable bite inhibition. Your dog may lack confidence and social grace, but at least his jaws are safe. He is not a dangerous dog. Consequently, resolution of the problem will be fairly simple. Of course, you still have an obnoxious dog in dire need of retraining, since your dog is annoying other dogs and owners just as much as he annoys you. Contact the [Association of Pet Dog Trainers](http://www.petdogtrainers.com) to find a Feisty Fido, Difficult Dog, or Growl Class.

On the other hand, if your dog has inflicted serious wounds to the limbs and abdomen of his opponents in just one of his fights, then you have a serious problem. This is a dangerous dog, since he has no bite inhibition. Obviously, the dog should be muzzled whenever on public property. The prognosis is poor, treatment will be complicated, time-consuming, potentially dangerous, requiring expert help, and certainly with small guarantee of a positive outcome. No dog problem presents such a marked contrast between prevention and treatment.

An adult fighter with no bite inhibition is the very hardest dog to rehabilitate, but prevention in puppyhood is easy, effortless, and enjoyable: simply enroll your puppy in puppy classes and take him to the park regularly. Do not wait for your adolescent dog to get into a fight to let him know you don't like it. Instead, make a habit of praising and rewarding your puppy every time he greets another dog in a friendly fashion. I know it may sound a little silly — praising your harmless, wiggly four-month-old male pup and offering a food treat every time he doesn't fight — but it's the best way to prevent fighting from becoming a serious problem.

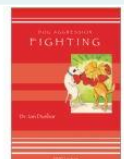
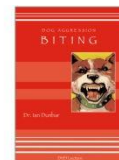
Adapted from [AFTER You Get Your Puppy](http://www.dogstardaily.com/training/fighting-0) by Dr. Ian Dunbar <http://www.dogstardaily.com/training/fighting-0>



Group Viewing

Contact us if you wish to join SWCDP members, view as a small group, discuss & share experiences, learn from one another, better understand your dog – and – why dogs do what they do. Date/Location to be announced.

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



What a Party! – Lots of Party Animals!



SWCDP Halloween Party (Nov 1) was quite a success and plenty of fun and adventure had by all. We estimate between **150-200 doggies** over six hour event. And 36 were decked out in fabulous costumes!



Plenty of party photos and details about the Fall Event will be featured in our final newsletter (March) for the 2015-2016 Season. Winners, based on YOUR vote, will receive gift certificates to The Watering Bowl – and will be announced in the January Quickie News – and posted on our message board. Members are encouraged to vote.

Please Vote

All Contest Participants Are Super Stars

Please take a moment to scroll through the photos, savor many fun doggie images, and help us select the winners. Gonna be a tuff call. Way too cute.



Voting open to SWCDP members but only one vote per membership household

It's Up To YOU

**Voting is easy & fast
Just a few quick clicks**

Voting open to all members – you do not need to have attended the event to vote.
After you enjoy the photos on following pages . . .
then link to the voting page, via SurveyMonkey, to cast your vote.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDP2015contest>

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



Voting Directions

We have three gifts – and seek 3 winners – although we think all participants are winners!

For “**Best Overall**” we will award 1st Place and 2nd Place gifts. Contestant with most votes will receive 1st, place; contestant with next highest votes will receive 2nd.

For “**Best Smile Factor**” we will award 3rd Place gift.

Follow the directions on SurveyMonkey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDP2015contest>



1

**Little Red
Riding
Hood**

Reyna

Belgian Tervuren
as Little Red Riding Hood

Southwest City Dog Park

Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



2

Thing 1

Ruby

Blue Heeler
posing as Thing 1



3

Thing 2

Charlie

Catahoula
posing as Thing 2

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



4

**Rodeo
Cowboy**

Mona

Lab Mix
posing as a Cowboy



5

Pikachu

Piper

Jack Russell Mix
posing as a Pikachu

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015
Costume Contest Contestants



6

Tarantula

Casey

Golden Retriever
posing as Tarantula



7

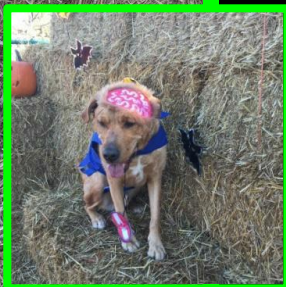
Chow

Kirby

Aussie Mix posing
as a Chow

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



8

Zombie

Mac

Lab Mix
posing as a Zombie



9

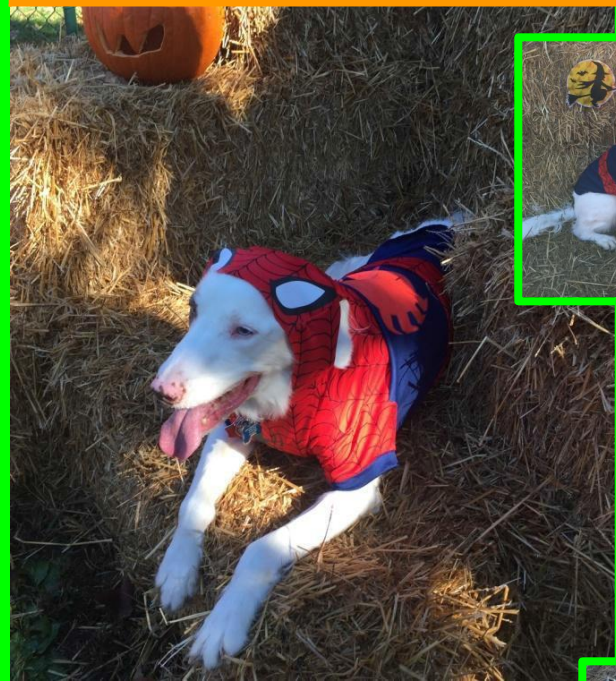
**Wonder
Woman**

Sara

English Setter
posing as Wonder Woman

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



10

**Spider
Man**

Dudley

English Setter Mix
posing as Spiderman



11

Batman

Lola

Coonhound
posing as Batman

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



12

Duck

Coco

Miniature Schnauzer
posing as a Duck



13

Lobster

Abe

Golden Retriever
posing as a Lobster



Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



14

Dalmatian

Pacha

Lab/Border Collie Mix
posing as a Dalmatian



15

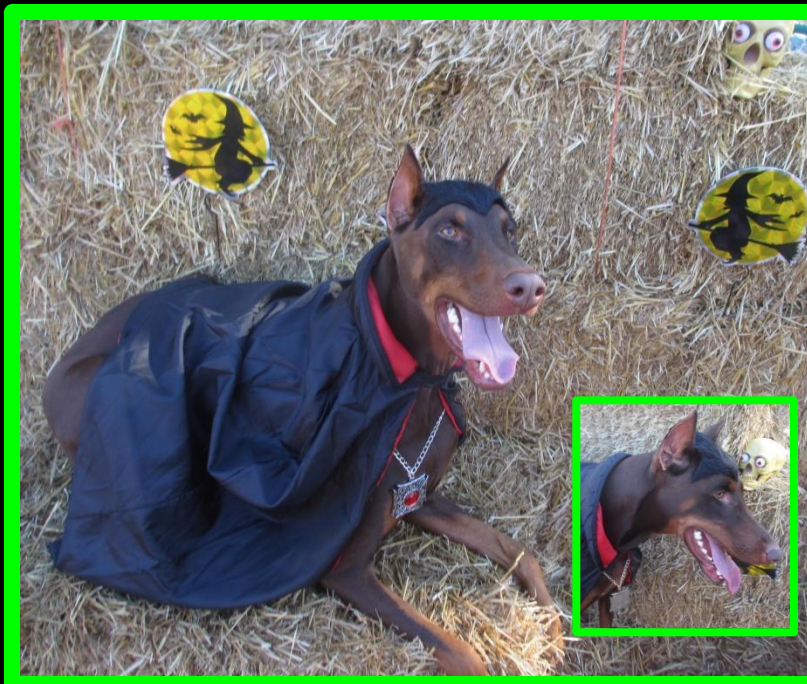
Sheriff

Mac

Miniature Schnauzer
posing as a Sheriff

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants

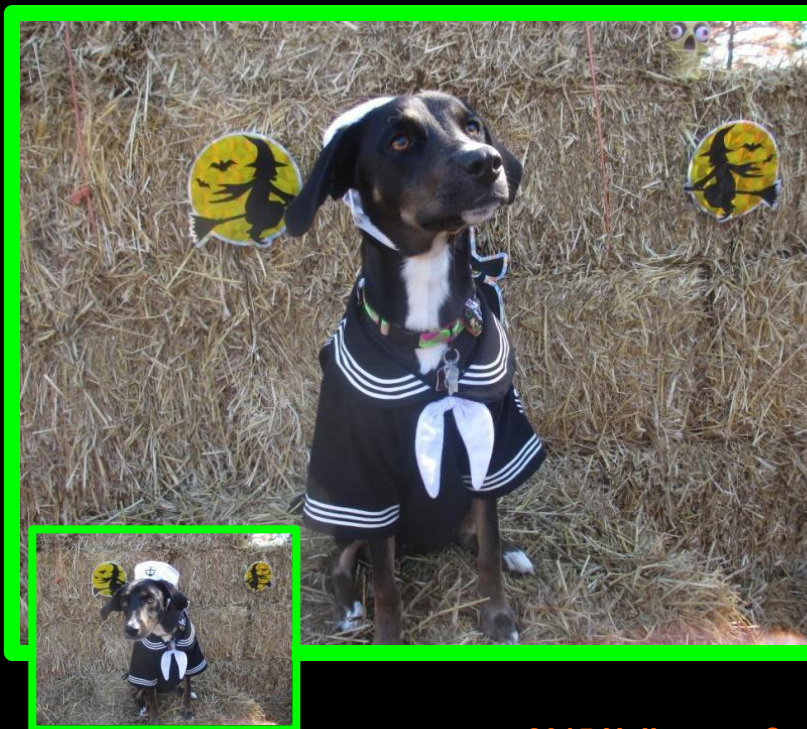


16

Dracula

Floyd

Doberman
posing as Dracula



17

Sailor

Riley

Lab Mix
posing as a Sailor

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



18

**Wide
Retriever**

Sammy

Golden Retriever
posing as Wide Retriever



19

Rufferee

Tyler

Aussie Mix
posing as Rufferee

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

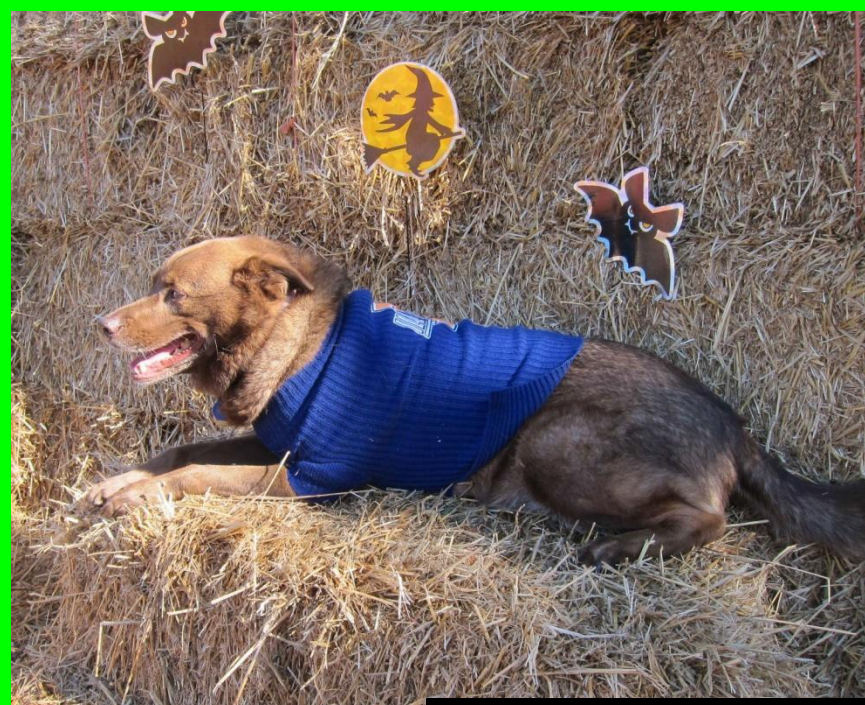
Costume Contest Contestants



20
Skunk

Caika

German Shepherd
posing as a Skunk



21
Illini Fan

Camo

Lab Mix
posing as Illini Fan

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



22

Hotdog

Roger

Goldendoodle
posing as a Hotdog



23

Rufferee

Chloe

Shihtzu/Beagle Mix
posing as Rufferee

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



24
Wide
Retriever

Moby

German Shep Mix
posing as Wide Retriever



25
Monarch
Butterfly

Bisky

Golden Retriever
posing as Butterfly

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



26

**Avatar
Dug**

Dug

Basset Lab Mix
posing as Dug from Avatar



27

Bat

Oliver

Boxer
posing as a Bat

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants



28

Bat

Cooper

Boxer
posing as a Bat



29

Bat

Toby

Shih Tzu
posing as a Bat

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015
Costume Contest Contestants



30

Bee

Randy

Poodle
posing as a Bee



31

Butterfly

Molly

Basset Mix
posing as a Butterfly

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants

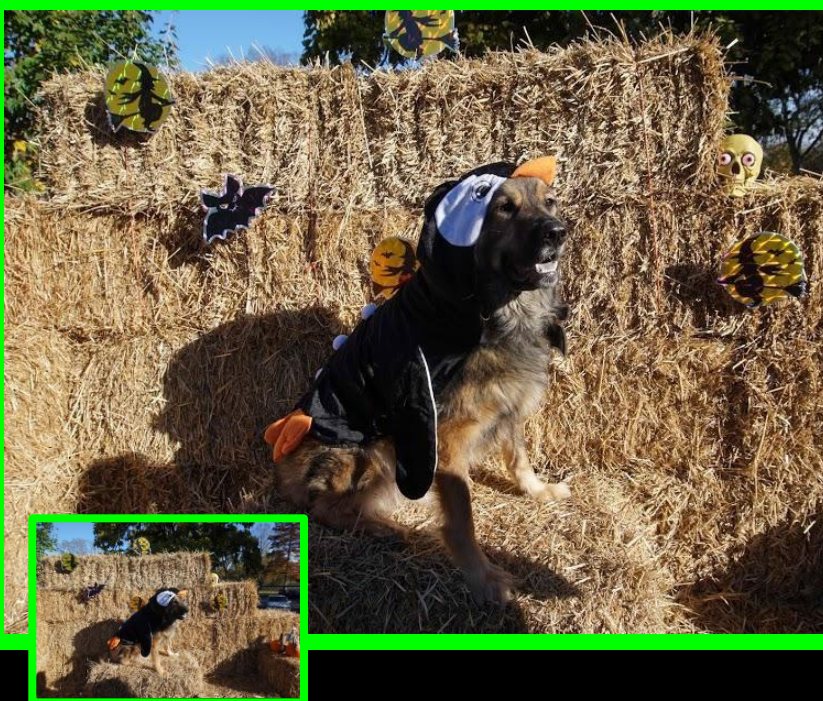


32

Pink Shirt

Sylvia

Beagle Shepherd Mix
posing in Pink Shirt



33

Penguin

Fozzy

Shepherd Mix
posing as a Penguin

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants

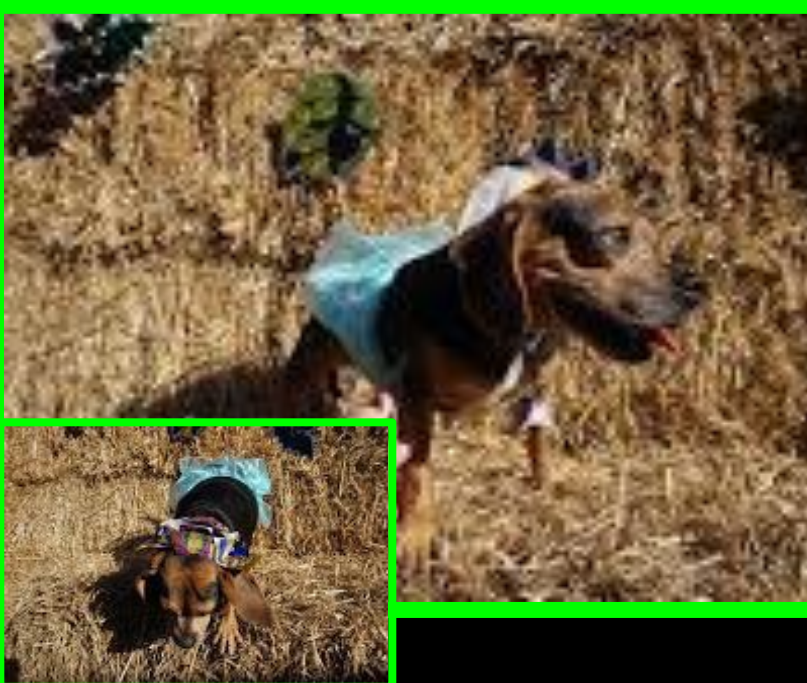


34

**Marc
Anthony**

Spencer

Beagle Mix
posing as Marc Anthony



35

Cleopatra

Beatrice

Puggle
posing as Cleopatra

Southwest City Dog Park
Fall Celebration & Halloween Contest 2015

Costume Contest Contestants

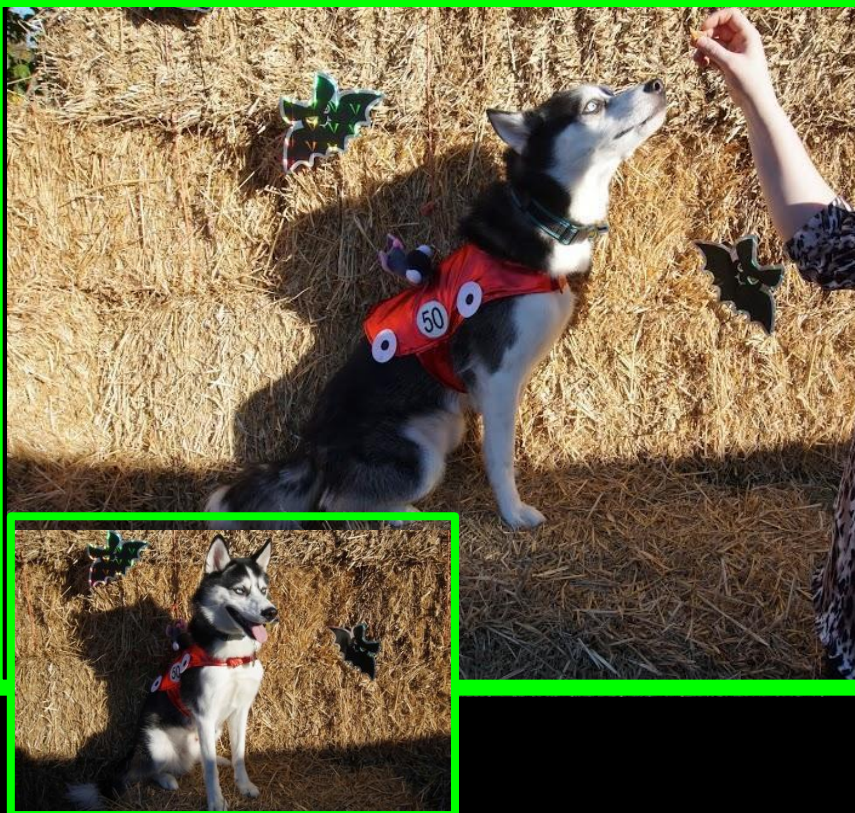


35

Cleopatra

Beatrice

Puggle
posing as Cleopatra



36

**Racing
Horse**

Frost

Husky
posing as Racing Horse