



Stuff That Just Can't Wait Until Next Newsletter

September 18, 2012

## We Made It ! Bordetella Outbreak Update

### Scrub Scrub Scrub

2-Leggeds left to right

Mark, Bob, Ron, Lauren



Mary, Tom



Alison, Mark



Lisa



### Fall 2012 Newsletter – coming in October

Please send questions or comments regarding **Quickie News** content or events to:  
Judi (Willow) [willow.nic07@yahoo.com](mailto:willow.nic07@yahoo.com)

Please send membership questions or new Bordetella cases to:  
Joan (Rusty, Casey, Bisky) [secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com)

### Dog Park Re-opens

September 3, Monday, 5:00 pm

We seem to be on the other side of the Bordetella outbreak. Thanks to those who reported their cases and to all for hanging in there as we worked through outbreak.

As of this writing – 24 known cases – and we suspect there could have been a few others.

We mentioned our canine membership stat exceeding 500 in a recent communiqué – but we should point out that our attendance was down this summer due to the extreme heat. If you were visiting the dp regularly in July/August – you likely saw mostly the same 2 & 4 Leggeds, didn't you?

Considering this, and estimating roughly 100-125 frequent canine visitors leading up to the outbreak (factoring in the 3-10 day incubation period) – we conclude an estimated infection rate between 19-24 % - and we think that is high and too risky to have done nothing.

Initially, we thought alerting and educating our members, along with disinfecting the toys and pools, would be a sufficient response. By Day 4, we had sent an alert, along with a Bordetella article from a Veterinarian conference on infectious diseases – and we scrubbed or pitched items in question. But, almost daily, more cases were being reported.

By Day 8, with 12 reported cases – and climbing - we knew we had to temporarily close the park in order to get on top of the outbreak. We hoped a short closing and a second round of disinfecting might work – but the dogs continued to get sick. So, using an abundance of caution, we kept the dog park closed for a total of 13 days (2 days due to heavy rain). With the situation finally stabilized we rejoiced in our Labor Day re-opening.

We learned that Bordetella is a highly infectious disease and that dog parks are a popular venue for spreading such disease. Many of us thought “kennel cough” was limited to enclosed quarters – like when boarding a pet, but not so. Open spaces where dogs are swapping spit or sneezing either directly on one another or into the air in general are prime infection sources. *(continued Page 2)*

# We Made It !

## SWCDP Updates

### Happy to be back

4-Leggeds left to right



Koda, Marx, Lucy,  
Dexter, Rex, and Tillie



Doe, Twinkie

### Dog Park Re-opens *(continued)*

September 3, Monday, 5:00 pm

We also learned that a Bordetella vaccine is the accepted Veterinarian protocol for reducing the chances of becoming infected with Bordetella. While Vets vary in opinion, most use this vaccine as standard protocol. Some Vets recommend that humans with dogs who are frequent dog park visitors or have active lifestyles with frequent public outings – should consider vaccinating their dog (s) every 6 months. SWCDP recommends you discuss this with your personal Vet.

Just as with human flu vaccines – the vaccine may not cover all strains. Out of our group of 24 cases, 4 dogs had the Bordetella vaccine, some within the year, and some within 3-5 months of the outbreak. The remaining 20 did not have a Bordetella vaccine. We do not know if we were dealing with a rogue strain or not – or something else; how the disease was introduced into the dog park; or, why some dogs got the infection and some did not. Most of our sick dogs were youngsters (between 5-24 months) and all were symptomatic with coughing, sneezing, nasty noses, and unfortunately, a few with pneumonia.

SWCDP recommends the Bordetella vaccine as a precaution; it is not a requirement for the 2012-2013 Season. We will poll the vaccine topic later in the year in our annual Member Survey to determine how the membership feels about this – as we prepare for future season requirements.



Call for park closing status  
**314/567-2012 #2**

### Our Park Closing Policy – It's Working!

We introduced our Park Closing Policy this season as a tool for protecting our turf. The intent was (is) to close the park after extreme wet weather, and hence, muddy conditions. Allowing time for the ground to dry out keeps the turf root system from being torn out from the dogs and humans walking and pounding on the ground.

Turns out – so far – we have only used our policy as it relates to rain and mud 2 days over Labor Day weekend due to heavy rain fallout from Hurricane Isaac. The other 13 days have been directly related to safety issues. Two days earlier in June when a large tree limb was partially knocked down from a menacing storm – we had to wait until the ground was dry enough for the city to take down the limb. And, 11 days to quarantine the dog park due to an infectious disease outbreak.

We are committed to keeping the park open as much as possible – but we do hope through the experiences so far – that our members are getting into the habit of **checking the park status by calling our Hot Line**. This will always be the most reliable and fastest way to know when the park is closed and when it will re-open. If you wait for an email – there could be some lag time. *Please put this number in your*

*cell, home & work phones – or anywhere you find it handy*



### Artsy Volunteer Needed – one time project

We have a small heading piece which goes over the gateway to the Agility course. It has the tan paint base coat on it. We want to paint the word “Agility” on it in blue and yellow. We would like to have help from a volunteer who has an artistic knack for painting letters free-style. If you can help, contact Judi.

# Events and Activities

## Mark Your Calendars

### Swim & Romp



Willow's fav dog park  
(after SWCDP, of course!)

**Saturday, September 22, 8:30am – 10:30am**  
Broemmelsiek Dog Park

This is last SWCDP Swim & Romp Meet-Up for the season  
**Come – Join Us**  
*Let's get some fun photos for our scrapbook*

2.50 acres fenced in with large pond. Early event offers a fantastic 4 Legged activity - and you still have most of Saturday for other things. Bring waste bags to pick up after your dog and water bowl for clean water for your dog to drink. Parking and Restroom very convenient. This is a **public and free dog park**; expect others to join us as the morning moves forward!

**Wanna be frugal?** Share the ride with a dog park pal and split the gas. Call HotLine **636/949-7475** before heading out – park closes when the grounds are wet. Alternate date – **September 29**

*Children under 8 years old – are not allowed inside the dog park – enforced by Park Rangers*

### Bi-State Pet Food Pantry



**Saturday, September 22, 6:00am – 1:00pm**  
Drop your food donations inside SWCDP entry area

#### SWCDP Community Project

We donate four times per year (voluntary, of course) to the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry. Our initial collection was in June 2012 and resulted in an awesome first-time donation. Since 2010, the pantry has rapidly grown, feeding over 550 dogs monthly. By providing pet food for needy families – the pantry is successful in helping pets remain with their families instead of being turned into a shelter or living on the streets. The pantry prefers food with meat as the first ingredient, dry food is the greatest need, but sick-elderly dogs sometimes need soft canned foods. SWCDP puts focus on the canines – but food for cats and other pets is also needed.

*Can you help? Every bag or can is welcomed.*

### For Winers and Woofers



### Doggie Etiquette

Practicing Manners

**Wednesday, September 26, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**3500 Winehaus – on Watson, 2 blocks north of Pernod**  
(Parking on street or parking lot located on corner of Oleatha and Watson Rd.)

A social event, outdoor patio – the humans will enjoy a *great glass of wine* (or soft drink) – and snack, if desired – the 4-Leggeds can practice self control and doggie etiquette while out in public. Check it out at

<http://www.3500winehaus.com/Menu.html>

#### Recommendation:

Let your canine run off some energy before joining buddies at Winehaus. Your pal will be more willing to demonstrate nice manners after a good spin at the park. Run a little - then join us to chill and enjoy a beverage and maybe a snack. DP attire ok. If it is chilly, remember a sweater, we will be outside on the patio.

#### Reservations:

Reservations are not required but we appreciate knowing approximately how many chairs/tables we need for our group – so if you know ahead of time that you will join us - please send an email to Judi. You can also just drop by if you find at the last minute that you are available.

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

# Events and Activities

## Mark Your Calendars, continued

### Agility



#### One-on-One

**NOTE DATE CHANGE**

**Sundays, October 7, 14, 21, 28, 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
**Agility Tutoring - On-site, SWCDP Agility Area**

#### There is still time to register for this event

SWCDP has arranged for a special 4 session series – held in our agility area. First come, first serve; class limited to six participants. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn and practice on site while having one-on-one guidance from a professional trainer – plus sharing the experience with some of your dog park buddies. The ending time may vary, depending on how many are in class.

**Sylvia Oglesby**, our July Agility Intro trainer, will lead this event. Sylvia has offered to share the fee proceeds with SWCDP which will be used to help offset the cost of agility equipment or miscellaneous expenses. We hope to have the training ladder and maybe weave pole training walls this fall, *maybe* in time for the October classes. Future wish list includes a tire jump and maybe a small-scale dog walk.

Reservation forms are available at the Message Board at the dog park entry.  
 \$75.00 per participant (\$18.75 per session).

**You must register and pay prior to session. Contact Judi for more details.**

### Watching Fly Ball Demo



**Sunday, October 14, 8:30am – 4:00pm**  
**St. Louis Canine Games – Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO**

Fun event for 4-Leggeds of all shapes and sizes – opportunity to try out many different dog sports and games in a non-competitive, low pressure venue: Agility, Obedience, Harness Events, Retrieving, Lure Coursing, and lots of vendors and food, too. They usually have an off-leash temporary dog park so your 4-Legged (s) can burn off that excited energy.

Look for the CGC certification booth – get your dog evaluated for **Canine Good Citizen** badge – and if he/she passes – you can get the AKC badge within a few weeks of the test.

### Is Your Canine a Senior or Geriatric?

age	weight			
	0-20	20-50	50-90	>90
1	7	7	8	9
2	13	14	16	18
3	20	21	24	26
4	26	27	31	34
5	33	34	38	41
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	131
18	88	96	109	139
19	92	101	115	
20	96	105	120	
21	100	109	126	
22	104	113	130	
23	108	117		
24	112	120		
25	116	124		

Charts courtesy of Fred L. Metzger, DVM, DABVP

(gold and red sections)

**Can someone bake goodies for the 4-Legged Seniors – or bring a carafe of coffee for 2-Leggeds?**

**Sunday, October 21, 8:00am – 11:00am**  
**Senior Sunday – Alternate Dog Park**



Sunday morning social for our **Senior and Geriatric 4-Leggeds**. Free soft treats for 4-Leggeds and coffee-tea for our 2-Leggeds. Games may include “Marathon Sitting/Laying” and “Peanut Butter Spoon Licking”. We will take photos for our Seniors album. Sign in upon arrival – and your 4-Legged may win the door prize! Please stop by for quick hello – or a long, leisurely visit.

No youngsters or boisterous 4-Leggeds inside Alternate Dog Park during this event. We must respect our elders. If you have a very shy dog that might benefit socially by hanging out with the seniors – or if you have a dog that might be a nice social guide for the elders – contact Judi to make special attendance plans – or if you can help with the event, either lead a game, bring stuff.

### Your Senior



**Would Love a Social**

# Events and Activities

## Mark Your Calendars, continued

### SWCDP Gear



Check Out New Colors & Winter Items

### Sunday, October 21, 10:00am – 4:00pm

#### Dog Park Gear – See Fall/Winter Items

**2-Legged** cash & carry and special order forms, on-site from 10:00am to 4:00pm  
**4-Legged** samples and special order forms, on-site from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Custom measuring for 4-Legged sweaters from  
 11:00am – 1:00pm on Sunday, or by appointment at dog park



### SWCDP SAFETY FIRST



### Saturday, October 27, 10:00am – 11:00am

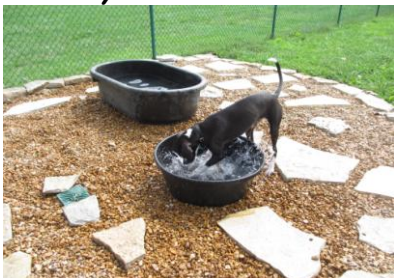
#### Free Canine CPR Info – Alternate Dog Park

Provided by Watson Animal Hospital, one of our **SAFETY FIRST** Sponsors.

More details in the Fall Newsletter – Mark your calendars now.



### Only 6 More Weeks!



Tux, an expert splasher

### Sunday, October 28 Bye Bye Pools

Water Stations 2, 3, and 4 will be closed for the season on November 1.

The next few weeks will be much cooler; the pools may or may not be used, as needed. Last year the 4-Leggeds enjoyed the pools through October – so simply play it day-to-day.

Sunday, October 28 will be the last full day of pools for our 4-Leggeds. Kiddie pools will be thrown out, the black oval will be stored for the winter, and the black round will return to its historic spot – at Water Station 1 – until next Spring. Between October 29 – November 1, our contractor will drain the water lines and shut down the water supply to the sprinkler system and the water bowls at Water Stations 2, 3, and 4. These water lines are not freeze proof and only intended for use during warm weather.

All water will be sourced at Water Station 1 during the winter as has been our water policy since the dog park opened in 2006.