



Newsletter

Composite Edition 2013

(June through December)



President's Message

As we wrap up 2013, we want to gift to you what we hope will be a delightful and informative read.

Great stories about a few of your fellow-members and a concise overview of an incredibly active year including robust renovations and multiple on-site events. We also share dog behavior and training tips to which you may not be familiar, and more.

If you only want to skim through – please feast your eyes on the photos – and read the Predatory Drift article. (page 16-18)

289 photos
7 dog member stories
8 page renovation update



Suggestions for 2014

On-Site Activities

Puppy Pool Party
Halloween Contest
Intro to recall, manners,
Canine Good Citizen,
agility, other dog sports

Off-Site Activities

Broemmelsiek Dog Park
Wine-Woof on Patio
at 3500 Winehaus
Bark in the Park
Canoe with your Pooch
APA Canine Carnival
Food Truck Friday Picnic
Bonfire / BBQ in Willmore

I know you will join me in giving thanks to all our wonderful members & outside friends who give generously with time, talent, goods, or services throughout the year. The dog park wheels turn only with our volunteer help. We had a very successful “**We Love Our Volunteers**” party last year as we said thanks to our member volunteers – and have another party in the planning stages (page 35). If you would like to be on the planning committee, please contact me directly. We are also going to need some helpers to close out this season and gear up for the 2014-2015 Season. Please consider lending a hand.



Willow
Dobie Girl

My sweet Willow, in her “I am ferocious” shark sweater

Many enjoy the humor...those of you who know Willow, know that she is a very low-key girl – that is, until she finds the right wrestling partner – and then she can let it rip. An athlete with manners, by her own accord; I can take very little credit – she came to me as a rescue Doberman – and a gentle soul.

**Grab a refreshment
Enjoy a fun read**

**Warmest Regards,
Judi & Willow**

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

www.swcitydogpark.org



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**HAPPY
NEWYEAR**

GMM

Attendance Prize Winners

May 8, 2013

Ron D (Elvis, Boris)

Luis R (Izzy)

Karl L (Sasha)

Carole L (Cynders)

Carol D (Beau, Junie,

Hazel, Lulu)

Ken G (Savannah)

Chris G (Sheeba)

Hillary M (Roscoe,

Artemis)

Karyl K w Kylie (Lily,

Marlie)



**Next GMM
General Membership Meeting
May 14, 2014**

Cookbook Supports

APA of Missouri

Pick up the perfect gift for the pet lovers in your life – or for your own enjoyment! With over 150 recipes of appetizers, soups and salads, entrees, and even dog treats, the APA cookbook is sure to please any palate. Each section includes a beautiful, hand-drawn illustration from artist Laura Jackson as well as a heart-warming Happy Tail of an adopted APA pet.

All proceeds from the book benefit the APA

\$15

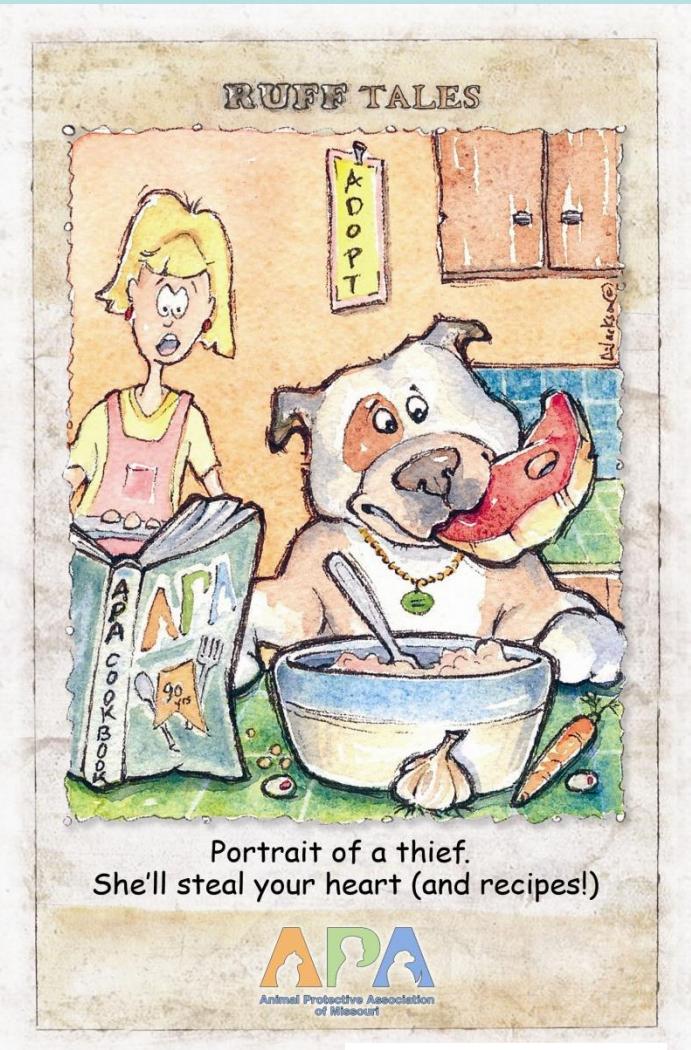
Stop by the APA to purchase your copy.

1705 South Hanley Road in Brentwood

www.apamo.org

Thank You

Southampton Neighborhood Association has been our dog park sponsor since the first season. We thank the volunteers at SNA for their continued support & encouragement.



2013-2014 Season Opening

Let the good times roll

Kick Off Event

Official opening date was June 8, but we held a more formal celebration on June 22.

The event offered a \$50 Gift Certificate as door prize and multiple smaller prizes for various doggie games, such as the Peanut Butter Licking contest and the Sit for the Hotdog reward. Our 4-Leggeds enjoyed a very special homemade cake, baked by Rosemary K (Sammy, Tyler, Skit) as well as untold amounts of goodies found on the “Find the Treat” course.



We started out small, not knowing how the treat course might work – but the dogs were very well behaved throughout the party – and so, we expanded the course for 3 more events later in the season. Good doggie, good. Oh, yeah, and we had frozen treats for the humans, too.

Our dog merchandise, an ongoing dog park fund raiser, debuted new colors, thanks to the support of Sloan & Jenny (Augie, Sylvia) and Tiny Little Monster.



Enjoying the Day



Cake Please



Find the Treat Course



More Games



Kick-Off Event Door Prize Winner

June 22, 2013



Let's get started



Cute toys



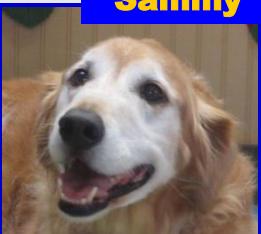
Awkward!
She wants me to read



Bowls
other sensible items

Rosemary and Bill K (Sammy, Tyler, Skit) won the Door Prize, a \$50 Gift Certificate, compliments of Pawsitively Fintastic, and after a very busy year – Rosemary decided to bring Sammy & Tyler in for a Christmas shopping spree. Skit is moving to MI with Rosemary's daughter in early 2014, so the 4-Leggeds are helping to pick out a "fintastic" departing gift.

Sammy



Tyler

Oh, what a day!

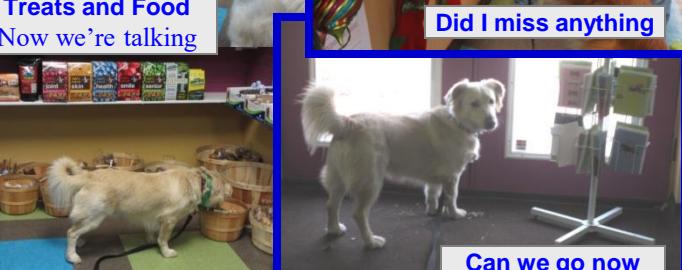


OK OK

Which way should we look



Did I miss anything



Can we go now



Ditch the humans
Let's shop on our own

Silent Squeaker

Hmmm . . .

A high pitched squeaker toy that is silent to the humans. This may have potential.



Treats and Food
Now we're talking



Thank You

pawsitively
fintastic
pet supplies & services

www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com



Bye Bye Skit

Skit came in strong in all 3 costume categories and almost won Third Prize.

Good job, Skit.

We thank Pawsitively Fintastic for their ongoing support of our dog park events. Having donated gift certificates for multiple events – we hope our members will reciprocate by occasionally shopping there.

Kill List



Waiting to be euthanized – or rescued.

May 2012. It was supposed to be a routine transport. A steady volunteer for Rescue Road Warrior, Lisa had made this and similar trips numerous times. RRW plays a vital role in cross-country efforts to rescue doggies, and others, from Kill Lists and transport them to safety.

But then something happened ...

This day, Lisa's charge was a very cute and cuddly stranger temporarily named Diva. And, while every RRW transport is deserving of a safe, forever-home – there was something particularly special about this Jack Russell/Beagle mix puppy.

Diva was just under 1 year old at the time, but had already gained a reputation as a "flight risk". So, according to RWW guidelines, this tiny thing was lovingly escorted wearing a double leash, kinda chain-gang style. For safe delivery, back up precautions were in order – and staying close to Lisa a requirement.

They arrived early for the hand-off, so the pup sat in Lisa's lap the majority of the time.

When it came time to pass Diva to the next driver, the puppy put her paws around Lisa's neck and would not let go.

It was the only time Lisa had ever been brought to tears when handing



Simply Irresistible

Meet Cleopatra



over a passenger to the next driver. The transport group does not allow drivers to adopt their charges, and in this case, Diva was on her way to a foster home and Lisa had special personal responsibilities which made temptation of adoption not reasonable, anyway. So, with hand-off concluded, Lisa went about her regular activities.

Regular activities for Lisa, included caring for Sugarbear and Jake; Jake was nearing the end of his time and had special needs. Jake and Lisa had been through a lot together, shared a long history and had a very close relationship. Sadly, Jake crossed the Rainbow Bridge in June 2012. Sugarbear, easy-going but very independent, was there for Lisa – but did not provide the cuddles and kisses Lisa had grown accustomed to from Jake. Hmm, this got Lisa thinking about that cute and cuddly stranger named Diva. What ever happened to her – where is she now?

For three weeks following Jake's passing, Lisa could not get the little pup out of her mind so she contacted RRW to see if Diva was still available for adoption. Turns out, Diva was in a foster home in North Wales, PA.

The adoption group required an application & phone interview. When the foster Mom heard about the history – she knew this adoption was meant to be. So, little Miss Diva, started her trek back to St Louis, a long 4 day journey, and on July 17 moved into her forever home – and became known as Cleopatra (Cleo for short).

No question this was the right thing to do. The moment Cleo got out of the transport car and saw Lisa, she wagged her "button tail" (result of a very bad tail docking) and jumped into Lisa's lap. Cleopatra is typically

Love at first sight!



Re-united

skittish with new people and this let Lisa know that Cleo remembered her – and made Lisa "love her even more". Sometimes, a connection is so much stronger than words.

Since Lisa works from home, the transition was fairly smooth. Cleo was crate trained but had to work out some potty and chewing issues. Cleopatra has yet to meet any high energy activity that she does not love.

Cleo enjoys pulling on her siblings, Sugarbear and George's, ears or tails

Continued page 6

to get them to play. She chases them around the table, plays tug of war, and enjoys every wrestling maneuver imaginable. Cleo looks forward to her dog park visits because she can let 'er rip and run at full speed....and make new play pals, too. Chasing the ball is fun – bringing it back – not so much.

Cleo is only two now, but has learned how to put a lot of goodwill in the bank. Good thing, too, because she draws from her cute and cuddly deposits, to bail herself out of trouble. Lisa shared that Miss "Cleo can be quite the little sneak. If it is raining the princess does not like to get her feet wet so she sometimes poos in the house. She also loves to steal my socks out of the dirty laundry. And, just like siblings, Cleo always wants the toys her brother and sister have."

Lisa said Cleo knows when she is in trouble. She will jump on the couch or bed, roll over on her back and give the look: "I'm so cute you can't be mad at me". This maneuver works almost every time!

Cleo can be silly, too. When Cleo gets a treat she will either drop it to see if she is going to get something better or she will drop it and run around, pick it up and run around again. And, when she is trying to get Lisa's attention Cleo makes this almost hum-like sound, not quite a whine. If Lisa doesn't do what Cleo wants - Cleo will jump on Lisa and start barking until Lisa gets with it.

With such bravado and risk taking, Cleo is actually afraid of loud noises or quick movements, like something falling over. And, she most definitely does not care for the annoying vacuum.

Lisa, a long-time rescuer, says she firmly believes in rescue dogs. Her life motto is:

Adopt – don't shop

Life is Good!



**Cleo & Lisa
Enjoying the Dog Park**



Kudos to Rescue Road Warriors

Rescue Road Warriors (RRW) is an all-volunteer transport group that drives, relay style, at risk animals to foster and adoption venues. Primarily dogs, but they have transported cats, tortoises and goats, from overcrowded, high kill facilities in southern Missouri to rescue groups along the east coast.

RRW started in 2009 – and with 500 volunteers – they have transported over 7,000 dogs to safety. RRW mostly works with organizations in Springfield, Cape Girardeau, and Kansas City. A particularly impressive stat is that since they started working with in Springfield – the euthanasia rate has gone from 85% to 0 for adoptable dogs. RRW has developed strong relationships with many rescues on the east coast that do great work and consistently find RRW rescues great homes.

The way it works: RRW has two awesome Coordinators who scour various information sources, and pull dogs who are scheduled to be put down. Then they contact their rescue and foster contacts, located in Michigan and around the East Coast to the Carolinas. They even sent some transports to Canada.

The transport consists of the RRW volunteer base, and they run a relay about every other week. Each leg is about one hour drive (one way). They meet up with the next drive who then takes their charge to the next pick up point until the rescue is safely delivered to the organization who has either an adoptive home or safe foster home lined up.

Most of the volunteers donate their time, use of vehicle and gasoline – but the organization has a gas card to help volunteers who want to drive but do not have the personal funds to do so. Money is always tight, so RRW owes its success to the humans who give generously to the cause.

If you would like to get involved, contact Kerin Hanson at dawgcr8@gmail.com

If you want to help, but cannot drive, you can link to Pay Pal account and make a cash donation at the website.

www.rescueroadwarriors.org

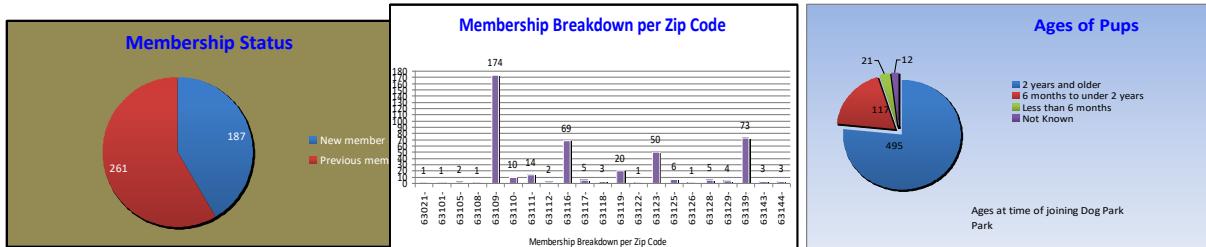
Feel free to contact our SWCDP member Lisa M (Cleo) if you want more information. lisamoenigmann@swbell.net



Secretary Report

By Joan L (Rusty, Casey, Bisky, Caika)

Writing this report as the snow comes down and the temperature is dropping. Me and my 4-Leggeds are snuggling in front of the fireplace. The Farmer's Almanac said it's supposed to be cold and snowy this winter. Let's hope it's not too cold just snowy. As of Dec. 1, 2013, we had **639** 4-Leggeds which are in **448** memberships. There were 187 new members and 261 returning members. We also have quite a large puppy population, again this year.



I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe Christmas and New Years. And, knowing how loved our 4-Legged members are – I'm sure each of them will get an extra treat or hug, too. We wish everyone the very best in 2014.

Till next time . . .

Woof, Woof, Woof **Joan L**

(Rusty, Casey, Bisky, Caika)

secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com



Caika, Bisky, Joan, Casey, Rusty

GMM Ballot Outcome ... May 2013 Meeting

Bi-State Pet Food Pantry	Bordetella Vaccine New Requirement	Outside Organizations	Winter Shelter Name
YES. The vote was almost unanimous (only 1 "no" vote) to support the pantry as our community project. We use our entry area as a drop off point so our members can easily donate food to this 501 (c) (3) organization.	YES. Strong support for the Bordetella vaccine to be included as a vaccine requirement for SWCDP membership was indicated in our survey, consulting with our 4 Vet Sponsors, and in the GMM vote.	YES. Using our Alternate Dog Park occasionally for outside dog groups showed popular survey support. However, the GMM vote was split as to allowing all types of dog groups vs. limiting to non-profit organizations, such as rescue groups, etc. Vote will be re-cast at next GMM but will not officially roll out new policy until we have enough volunteers to help carry out the tasks.	The range of "finalist" names were selected from the SWCDP Member Survey. Members offered quite a selection, and here are the finalists: Pup Tent, Mutt Hutt, Bob-a-cabana, Digloo, Paw Pad, Time Out, Puppy Patch, and Pawvilion
Next donation will be March 2014	Bordetella vaccine will be a membership requirement effective April 2014 as we begin accepting applications for the 2014-2015 Season. <i>(future seasons)</i>		Winner Pawvilion

Wappy Doggies

Sunday is Funday

August 18

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Leaving Sunday is Funday

Wagging Tails – Smiles All Around

Well, the experiment with our **Find the Treat** course was so popular during the Kick-Off event – that we had to find an excuse to bring it back – and **Sunday is Funday** was born.



The 4-Leggeds love this course – who wouldn't? Hidden under boxes or in cans or other containers – a yummy variety of peanut butter, hot dogs, cheerios, carrots, apples, variety of kibble and doggie cookies, etc. And, we added plastic corrugated pipes – with peanut butter inside. The addition scored big with the pooches.

Thank you 4-Leggeds for such nice party manners



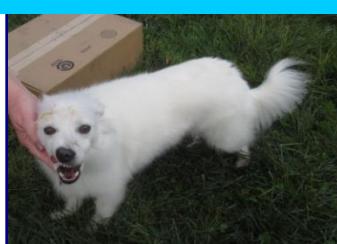
You have not lived

Until you get your head stuck in a coffee can



Peanut Butter Face

It was worth it!



Oh, they grow up so fast!

Puppies Luv Dog Parks

One minute they are adorably precious – and naïve
And the next minute they are cruising into adolescence – with all kinds
of habits and idiosyncrasies they picked up along the way.
Just ask the human parents of last year's puppies.

Happy Puppy Faces

Delta
Shepherd Mix



Lucy
Cocker Spaniel



Yogi
Red Heeler-Cattle Dog

Misa
Labrador Retriever



Olivine
Pitbull-Shepherd-Retriever Mix

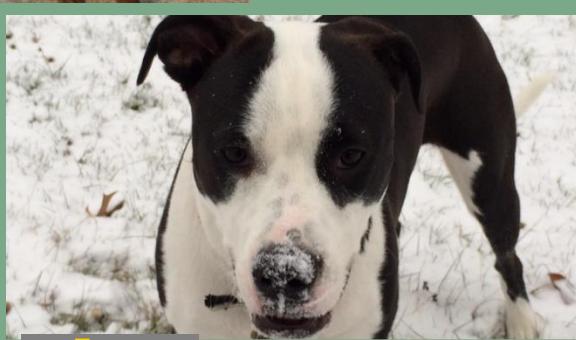


B
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Simcoe
Doberman



Tessa
Boxer Mix



Tessa
Boxer Mix



Atticus
English Mastiff



Cleo
Dalmatian-Boxer Mix



Indi
Shepherd-Boxer Mix



Leroy
Bloodhound

Puppy Pool Party

Almost
150 doggies
attended party!

Sept 14

Our Puppy Pool Party, an annual event, was attended by well over 100 dogs, more likely 125-150 and each brought 1-2 humans with them. So much action over 6 hours, hard to count paws & feet.

How It Works

Doggies under 2 are considered "Pups" and wear the red scarf; Doggies over 2 are our "Role Models" and set an example of nice play for the youngsters. Peanut Butter Licking Contest; Find the Treat Course – multiple pools, doggie frozen treats, and frozen pops for the humans. Fun!

Kay (Cinnamon, Gus) made and donated 8 dozen frozen treats for the 4-Leggeds – and they happily ate every one.

Frozen Treat Recipe

Yogurt 8 oz, 1/2 banana, 1 Tbl peanut butter; add a little milk or water, as needed. Mix in blender. Put in ice trays. Option: Use pan, partial freeze, cut squares, continue to freeze. Put pieces in bag.

For the record, all guests behaved nicely all day!



Meet Trio

Amazing Dog



Trio is a chocolate lab and just over 12 months old, give or take. But don't let his youth fool you – Trio's extraordinary life will take your breath away – and capture your heart forever. **Today ...**

Trio's humans say from the beginning, Trio LOVES water. He goes to all the doggie pool days, he loves being on the boat at the lake and even went tubing. And, Trio always takes several quick dips and splashes in our dog park pools, every chance he gets.

Trio makes friends wherever he goes. He just smiles and soaks it all in. He is happy to go anywhere as long as he can be with his pack and meet new 2 and 4 Leggeds, too. Kelley, Trio's Mom, says Trio is particularly fond of playing with the little dogs at our dog park; sometimes the big dogs bump him over, so he seems to have a comfort level with the smaller dogs. Trio also enjoys greeting anyone entering the dog park – his family calls him the "Walmart greeter". A quick smile and hello for all.

Trio and his pack are always on the go and enjoy lots of dog-centric events.

Trio has become kinda famous; he has met Fredbird, has been on TV, radio,



internet, in newspapers – and – was the star for two Trivia Nights (AKC Museum of the Dog & Webster Groves Rotary Club) to raise money for Trio's rescue, Abandoned Paws Rescue.

Even with Trio's busy social life, he still has time for a job. On Mondays, Trio goes to Mann School in South City, and spends time in the 4th grade. At this point, Trio is an old pro – since he started his therapy career when he was under six months old. He is well mannered and polite, never jumps on anyone – and he is patient.



The children love Trio, and he really helps them develop compassion for animals and people and solidifies their learning to accept those who are different. Trio's reward is the hugs from the children – but – he also goes to Mokabee's for lunch after school, and Trio has become quite the celebrity there, too.

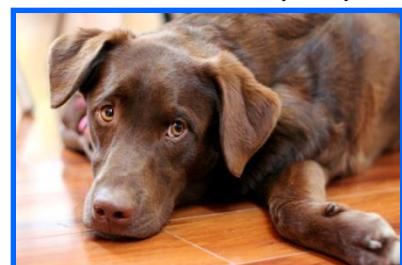
Kelley says Trio is very wise. She shared that there is a depth to Trio that can be seen in his eyes - he is an "old soul." Kelley mused that this may be because Trio overcame so

much as a pup, or (as in the book, A Dog's Purpose) this is not Trio's first time for being a dog. He just exudes peace and wisdom.

That is – until the puppy comes out. You see, another very favorite past time is chewing. Trio will gladly chew up a shoe that is casually lying around – and most recently gobbled up Kelley's headphones. Trio is not a barker – as a general rule – but he tends to "lose his mind" where food is concerned. While usually the perfect special boy – Trio does tend to get into trouble regularly for these "special vices". He likes to swipe food whenever he thinks he can get away with it. But, according to Kelley, his "rich and beautiful eyes" – and puppy dog sweetness – usually get him out of the dog house just as fast as he gets into it.

Trio Tuckered Out

After First Year Birthday Party!



That's great, you say, but my dog is loving, too, and does some of the same things – so why is Trio so amazing?

Continue to Page 12



Deformed – and – Dumped

Nameless, living in a kill shelter at three months old
Nobody wanted him . . . until . . .

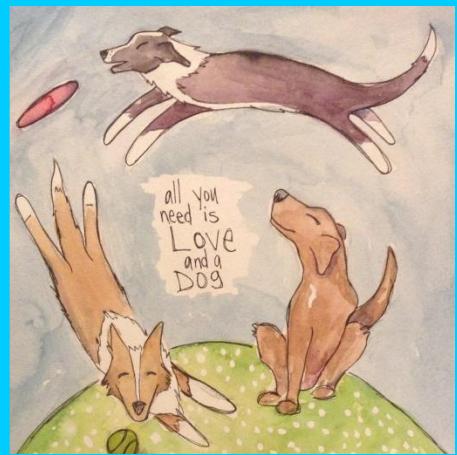


Illustration by Trio's Mom, Kelley L
Trio with his brothers, Eisley lovin' his
Frisbee and Brody lovin' his ball

Trio's Early Life . . .

Abandoned Paws Rescue accepted this deformed little puppy into their adoption program in August 2012. Kelley, the Adoption Coordinator, scooped him up – and he hobbled along with Kelley, assisting her in making the foster home inspections.

Well, that was all it took to wiggle into Kelley's heart – so he went home to meet Kelley's menagerie of canines. From then on, he was known as Trio, T-Rex, or just T.

Within days, Trio's "T-rex" arm was evaluated. Trio had also been a bit sick – and it was discovered that he had Parvo. They set up an isolation area in basement and gave SubQ fluids. Even in isolation Trio was the happiest boy, all he wanted was attention and being with his humans.

Thanksgiving 2012 was bittersweet. Trio survived Parvo, the rescue group decided to sponsor therapy training at the Farmington Correctional Facility. So, Trio was packed up and sent to the Puppies for Parole program. Chris and Kelley fostered 25 puppies in one year, and that Thanksgiving, baby Rosemary passed away.

Trio came home for a Christmas break on December 21. He had barely settled in when it was noticed that his T-Rex arm was swollen. Off to the emergency clinic, it was diagnosed as broken; amputation was done on December 28.

No one slept the night Trio came home after surgery. Trio, usually nothing but happy, cried all night. But then he began to heal. Until April when he had another surgery on his back leg for a luxating patella. This didn't slow him down; Trio learned to run on 2 legs and was called "Duo" for a little while!



Kelley and Chris officially adopted Trio in May 2013. After all, who is kidding who, Trio was forever in their hearts and part of the pack. Trio loves snuggling with his brothers, Brody and Eisley.

When Trio's T-Rex arm was amputated they left his shoulder intact and he does the cutest shoulder shrug – almost like a "hey baby" or "how you doing" gesture. Very endearing. His front paw is quite larger than his back paws, and Trio loves to bonk his brothers with it to engage in play.

Trio at APA's Canine Carnival

Trio was clocked at 21mph. That's more like 28mph in quadpawd!

Trio loves to run – look at his happy running face.

Meet Trio's Pack



Chris and Kelley with Trio (l) and Ellie (middle) next to Brody and Eisley. Miss Ellie crossed the Rainbow Bridge in summer 2013

Follow Trio's Blog

Learn more about what he and Kelley are doing with Healing Species Missouri
www.healingspeciesmo.org

Learn about Healing Species
www.healingspecies.org

A 10-week violence intervention, character and compassion education outreach program. Through the assistance of rescued dogs that nobody wanted, they teach children to understand and overcome abuse, neglect, & grief while teaching life skills in self-esteem, conflict resolution, anger management, respect for the feelings of others, and in gaining success through acts of compassion and responsibility instead of returning "violence for violence."



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Communicate.



Communicate.

Mostly – we are a happy doggie community – and mostly – we have a harmonious playground. When we examine the cause of occasional playground distress, it is by large account, tracked back to misunderstandings. A 4-Legged who is young and inexperienced and has not yet learned basic self control or manners, or a 4-Legged, for a variety of reasons, who may be missing the cues sent by another dog. A dog may be saying, "Back off, I don't want to play with you" and the initiator keeps pushing the play. Or, in their collective enthusiasm, a wrestling game turns into a major pile on – and somebody gets annoyed. Fortunately, our canines can usually work these things out on their own.

Beyond the canine communications, however, the root cause of distress, almost always goes to the human who is either not watching their 4-Legged, or completely ignores the obvious stress signs of other humans. **Solution:** If questionable doggie play is creating stress, talk to the owners of dog (s) involved. Ask specifically how they feel about the action underway – and what they wish to be done, if anything. Sometimes a "time out" is necessary, often a re-direct of energy is worthwhile, and many times, simply by indicating your awareness and willingness to step in reduces the anxiety. Please talk to one another and be respectful of the wishes of other members. **The dog park is large enough for all.**

Reminders



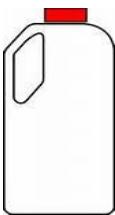
Blue trash cans are for recyclable items: paper, cans, plastic bottles, glass or metal.

No Poop / Plastic Bags



After dark, keep a small flashlight with you – to assist in finding & picking up your dog's poop.

Please pick it up!



Water Station 1 is freeze-proof but occasionally clogs or freezes, anyway.

Bring jugs of water for dogs to drink

Some dogs love cold weather, others only tolerate for a short time – but ALL dogs are vulnerable. Don't stay at the dog park too long during cold months, keep your dog moving, Some dogs, especially short hair, may benefit from a sweater or coat. Watch for signs that your 4-Legged is ready to go home.



©2013

If you have not yet spent a winter on SWCDP playground – be prepared. Even on sunny days – it can be very cold – and almost always windy. Wear one more layer to the dog park than you would doing other activities, always colder on the open field.



Our Emergency Kit is available year round, located in 3 plastic containers in the vertical storage unit. Items for both humans and canines. Please replenish supplies as necessary. This is an honor system resource.



Emergency phone numbers are listed in the entry area on Main Message Board. After hours Vets, Park Rangers and wild life resources numbers are there, too.

911

SAFETY and INCIDENTS

KNOW THE RULES

No Tag

No Admittance

No Exceptions

Members are responsible for making sure only member dogs use our dog park facilities.

SWCDP Safety and Incident Committee is not responsible for day-to-day monitoring of the playground or responsible for breaking up scuffles, etc. Committee people are dog park members volunteering their time to review formal reports; they manage the process and make recommendations for a course of action, when needed.

It is up to each member to self-monitor his/her own behavior (and canine behavior) while using the dog park facilities. It is also expected that each member will be observant users and good dog park stewards. To maintain a clean, safe, fun playground requires ongoing vigilance. If you see someone breaking the rules – tactfully and cordially approach them. Ask another member or two to help you if you are uncomfortable doing so alone. **It is never OK to give out our gate code or allow non-member dogs on the dog park grounds.**

Effective December 2013, rules are posted throughout the dog park; and, have always been provided upon application and membership acceptance. Refer to your SWCDP User Guide.

Please, do not use this reporting process as a tool for general griping or venting. Remember, each report consumes the time of several of your fellow members who serve on this volunteer committee and donate their time in an effort to keep things safe for all of us.

The following forms are available at our main on-site Message Board and our website's Safety/Incident page. Anonymous reports are discarded.

Incident Report

Injuries to 2-Leggeds and 4-Leggeds – or serious dog fights with no Vet bill.

If you are involved in a situation incurring injuries, whether you have a Vet bill or not, it is a requirement of the SWCDP rules that you file a formal Incident Report. SWCDP management and committee need to know of such situations. This is vital to keeping everyone safe and ensuring people are held accountable for their (dogs) actions.

Complaint Report

Repeat rule breakers and miscellaneous problems.

If you witness members continually showing disregard for the SWCDP rules or creating tense situations on the playground, let us know about it. Such as, bringing in children under 8 years old, food, dog treats, alcohol, or constantly making mud, leaving gates open, abusing equipment or grounds, or being very disruptive with foul language or bullying other members. SWCDP members are all adults – and agreed to abide by the rules when they applied for SWCDP membership. Considering this, we do expect most situations to be worked out amicably amongst the members; and we do expect members to follow the rules. Sometimes, they might just need a simple reminder.

Dog Watch Report

Use the Complaint Form and check the “Other situation” box.

Dog Watch is our system to keep track of dogs that show a pattern of bad behavior or potential safety threats. We maintain the list privately so that no dog gets an undeserved bad rap or we hurt a dog's opportunity to enjoy the dog park. However, once a strong trend line of bad behavior is documented, we will contact the dog owner to discuss a course of action. This might include limited use of the dog park, dog training or counseling, temporary or permanent suspension of membership, or other actions as deemed appropriate by the committee.

Safety Report

Help us keep the playground safe, equipment in good repair.

Use this form if you see something that needs attention from a safety, repair, or maintenance standpoint. We need your eyes and ears to keep our dog park in tip top shape.

If you see something turf related that might not be obvious on normal day-to-day observations, let us know. We are in constant review of the turf conditions, so we really do not need written reports about thinning grass, weeds, mud or bare spots. Turf is an ongoing challenge with constant changes, and we adjust as needs and weather dictates.

Howard

I Can't Believe I Ate the Whole Thing!

Those who know Howard, a 13 month old St Bernard-Mastiff mix, know that Howard is one of our 4-Legged members totally committed to Tug of War. Whether it is a nonchalant game with a casual partner or an all-out “throw down” with another dedicated Tugger – Howard is always game. He hasn’t met a rope toy yet that he doesn’t fall in love with immediately.



Well, recently Howard was engaged in play with one of his regular Tug partners, Jed, a one year old Weimaraner. The game was thrilling, the doggies were having fun, and the humans were close by, watching the game and enjoying the day. The Tuggers took a short break, no big deal – normal *Rules of Engagement* in the game of Tug of War. Jed stood by and Howard kept the tug rope in his mouth.

But then, Howard started chewing on the rope and Jenifer noticed the rope seemed a bit shorter so she yelled for Craig and both started to approach Howard. Howard knows “the look” and so he took off running and kept swallowing the rope as he ran. By the time they caught Howie – he had swallowed the entire rope – all 24 inches of it.

Mishaps are usually not planned
And can happen in seconds
Sometimes while you watch in disbelief

The rope was surgically removed the next day



Howard recovering from surgery
He is OK now and back to normal, happy Howie

Toy Tips



Think Rugged

Dog park playgrounds are rough & tumble places, and even in times of peaceful enjoyment – anything can happen – and usually does. All toys are donated by our members. We ask that you think about your selections, and choose toys that can stand up to the robust play. No small parts or breakable components. There is nothing delicate about our playground.

Think Sturdy

Every toy, no matter how rugged, will eventually reach an expiration point. Our members must be vigilant – and when we see toys badly frayed or in pieces, we should throw away immediately. Cut down the risk of our dogs swallowing chunks of fabric or rubber. Note: Howie swallowed a 2” diameter and 24” length rope – which was still in reasonable shape.

Not For All

Please be considerate of other member’s wishes. Some dogs are not suited to sharing toys and members must coordinate their dog’s play activities. We must share the space and allow for a variety of play.

Toy Box

Keep toys that are not “in play” in the toy box located next to Water Station 1. If dogs are already playing with a toy and you don’t want your dog to engage, use another area of the park.

Have you heard about Dr Ian Dunbar?

Dr. Dunbar, Veterinarian, animal behaviorist, and dog trainer, has researched the development of social hierarchies and aggression



in domestic dogs. He designed and taught the world's very first off-leash puppy socialization and training classes. Dr. Dunbar coined the phrase "**predatory drift**". Please read the article on this phenomenon on the following pages.

http://www.siriuspup.com/about_founder.html

To get a flavor of Dr. Dunbar's personality and his approach to dog training – watch this six minute YouTube video...good info with a human touch and humor. Enjoyable!

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=puppy+trainin+g+ian+dunbar&FORM=VIRE6#view=detail&mid=AE7F80AC8F2684DC1410>

Lure and Reward, not punishment

Integrate training into routine daily life activities



Puppy Training Video

The beginning – Start immediately

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=puppy+training+ian+dunbar&FORM=VIRE6#view=detail&mid=293839A216D518220AB4293839A216D518220AB4>

SWCDP has puppies aplenty – the teachings of Dr. Dunbar may offer value to those wondering when it is time to teach manners & self control to their pups.

STREET TALK

It seems that for many years there has been a bit of a rift amongst a rather large number of professional dog trainers: those in the Dunbar camp and those in the Cesar Milan camp. Many of these trainers disagree strongly with Milan's pack leader and restraint techniques and seem to resent his vast media attention and celebrity status. Part of their case is that Dr. Dunbar has deep academic credentials and is a world-renowned animal behavior expert with many more year experience – and the status should have gone to him, not Milan. However, it appears, over the last couple years or so, Milan may be slowly coming around to Dr. Dunbar's methodologies. Dr. Dunbar appears in one of Cesar Milan's recent books, devoting part of a chapter to Dunbar's dog training techniques.

SWCDP does not recommend one training over the other – we simply bring resources to your attention. You decide.

Lost or Found Pets

Remember these important contacts



<http://www.stllostpets.org/>

A collaboration of the Animal Protective Association (APA), St. Louis County Animal Care and Control and the Humane Society of Missouri.

<http://stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpaws/>

No Food on SWCDP Playground

Dog Treats Are Not Allowed, except these conditions

Special Events approved by SWCDP Board. These events are held in our Alternate Dog Park and are heavily supervised and treats are offered in a controlled manner.

Agility Course

Small amounts in tightly sealed bags are allowed for agility activities only. Bring what you need for that agility session – but do not bring full bags or large amounts.

If you have left-over treats, after doing agility, and wish to stay at the dog park – you must take the treat bag to your car.

Do not - at any time - take treats out in the Main or Alternate areas; keep in your bag or pocket as you walk to the agility area.

Do not - ever - leave a bag of treats on a bench, or unattended.

Do not give treats to other dogs. Be respectful of other members and their 4-leggeds, **some dogs are food aggressive** - please do not put your treat practices above the wishes of our other members.

NOTE: Your dog will enjoy agility without treats – and we highly recommend using the course without treats. Most dogs like the challenge, the new experience – and pleasing their humans.

Predatory Drift

This season SWCDP Safety and Incident Committee had an incident under review that opened wider and ongoing discussion. The gist, two larger dogs attacked a smaller dog for what witnesses stated was "no apparent reason". While the incident was disturbing, the truth is – those misbehaving dogs could have belonged to any one of us.

This article is not intended to defend those dogs or to lose sight of the fact that if your dog causes injury you are required by City Ordinance to be financially responsible. For the record, the dogs in this situation were not vicious dogs, were in good standing, and had regularly visited the dog park. They no longer come to our dog park – but that is not the point of the story. Rather, the incident and follow up research – led us to the term: Predatory Drift. We think it important that all of our members become familiar with this phenomenon. And, we encourage you to discuss further with your Vet and/or Trainer.

The following info was copied from <http://www.greatdaneowners.co.uk/index.php?/topic/34377-predatory-drift/> Further information about "predatory drift" may be found by searching articles or training information by Dr Ian Dunbar or Jean Donaldson.

A Dog Park Story from the UK

*Our dog, Henry, killed a dog
at the dog park*

We are still reeling from the shock and I can't begin to imagine how the owners of that dog are coping. We have kept him on a leash and away from dogs ever since. He is five years old and had gotten along with other dogs until this incident. He had several playmates and my sister and dog sitter both have dogs with which he has cohabitated peacefully for weeks at a time. We called a trainer immediately and she explained that this was predatory behavior. This is puzzling to us because since we've had Henry he

has never been much of a hunter - he doesn't chase cats, and has an excellent recall on walks in the woods. He is fairly large (65 pounds) and the dog he killed was small (11 pounds). I can see how this would have made it easier for Henry to kill the dog, but not how it would contribute to his wanting to kill this dog as he has interacted peacefully with countless small dogs in his lifetime. Could it still be hunting? Will he ever be trustworthy again? Given history, I think this is an example of what Dr. Ian Dunbar has coined "predatory drift".

It is worth summarizing what predation is before examining predatory drift. Although often lumped under the banner "aggression", predation is food acquisition rather than agnostic (fisticuffs within a species) or defensive behavior, although some of the behaviors in the canine predatory sequence - most notably biting - share some topography with aggression. Predatory behavior needs careful attention because the results are more often extremely damaging than the results of routine defense and competition.

Some dogs display frank predatory behavior toward other dogs the same way they might toward squirrels, cats and other critters. Most such dogs direct regular social behavior toward dogs on other occasions, or confine their predation to small dogs or running dogs only. Each dog will have a profile, broad or narrow, of the targeted dogs and contexts that elicit the behavior.

There are also key divisions among these dogs regarding which parts of

Science and Terminology

Every behavior an animal exhibits is genetic – i.e., they have the genetics that allow that behavior to happen. Pigs are genetically designed to root; dogs are genetically designed to leave urine markers; fish are genetically designed to separate air from water so they can live in water; etc.

Genetic Traits – 3 Categories

- Reflexes
- Action Patterns
- Behavior Traits

Reflexes are more uniform in nature and the least subject to modification; **Action Patterns** are more variable in nature and more subject to modification than reflexes, but less than behavior traits; **Behavior Traits** are extremely variable from individual-to-individual, and the most easily modified. Always remember that ALL behavior can be modified – it's just easier to modify some than others!



Predatory drift is an action pattern. It is a food gathering behavior, which in certain animals is called predation. Let's be very clear here that **predatory drift is NOT aggression!** It is predation. Most play behavior revolves around normal hunting behaviors – stalking, chasing, etc. Predatory drift often begins as normal play, and something triggers the larger dog and he drifts over into predation. The reason predatory drift is so dangerous is because it often happens between dogs that have a great size difference. Even though many dogs have lost the "kill" piece of the predatory sequence, that size difference can result in death almost instantly.

Some trainers believe you can pinpoint dogs that are prone to predatory drift.

Certainly there are dogs that are more predatory than others, but this is really a different situation; predatory dogs can be screened based on prior behavior.

Predatory drift can happen with any dog – dogs that have never shown any predatory inclinations or aggression to other dogs and even dogs that have been good buddies for a long time. And, it happens in an instant and is generally not preventable.

Things that typically trigger predatory drift are running dogs, injured or struggling dogs, squealing dogs, dogs being ganged up on, and any situation where there's a big size differential. Info courtesy of:

<http://becomeaprofessionaldogtrainer.com/2011/06/predatory-drift/#sthash.lP7G5ZKU.dpuf>

Predatory Drift

the predatory sequence they are predisposed to. For instance, a dog may be a maniacal chaser but demonstrate great restraint if ever a prey item is caught. (a Golden Retriever may gleefully run down a squirrel but have no idea what to do with it once it's caught - the squirrel is presumably freaked out but unscathed.) Others are "finishers" - i.e. they finish the predatory sequence by killing what they catch. Terriers are the poster children for this phenomenon, although there may be overrepresentation of other breeds, such as Siberian Huskies. As an interesting side note, this incredible genetic elasticity in the dog's predatory sequence has allowed for the exaggeration through selective breeding of many of our favorite stylized predation behaviors, such as scent work, pointing, flushing and herding.

Dogs that are known finishers are best managed (*kept away from opportunity*). I would elect to manage dogs that are not known finishers if they target small dogs.

This usually manifests when the latter are running or scurrying (retired racer syndrome). The risk of injury is too high, the behavior harder than most to modify and the management usually easy to implement.

I believe Henry's unfortunate incident was the results of an equally serious but less well-known phenomenon, predatory drift. Unlike regular predation, which is motivated as such from the get-go, predatory drift is the kicking in of predatory reflexes in an interaction that begins as a social interaction. And, unlike predation, which is predictably elicited in a known quantity by a member of the target group, predatory drift can occur among dogs that had never been

predatory before and may never be again. It kicks in because of specific contextual triggers. The two riskiest contexts are:

Play or Squabble

Play or a squabble between two dogs extremely different in size, especially if the smaller dog panics, yelps and/or struggles. The simulation of a prey item is so convincing that the roles in interaction drift from a social scuffle to predator-prey. The greater the size disparity, the greater the risk, for three reasons. Firstly, the likelihood of the smaller dog getting inadvertently stepped on or otherwise ouched, even in a normal play session with a reasonably gentle dog, is greater if the dog in question is really tiny. Secondly, I would speculate that the tinier the dog, the better the simulation of a prey item to the bigger dog. Finally, the ease with which the larger dog can grab and shake the smaller one goes up as size difference increases. Grabbing and shaking is often present in predatory-drift incidents.

Most of us have seen dogs grab and shake toys. Even if non-lethal pressure is exerted, a grab and shake inflicted on a small dog can break its neck.

2+ Dogs Teaming Up

Two or more dogs "teaming up" during intense play, or two or more dogs acting together in a chase or squabble context with a dog that begins to panic, yelp and/or struggle. Dogs have also been known to attack injured dogs and this effect is also facilitated by the attacking unit being two or more dogs as opposed to one.

Because predatory drift can occur in dogs without any particular history, all owners and practitioners should exercise some diligence in the two contexts above - large to small interactions and 'double team' (two-plus one). While it is quite true that many such interactions are completely benign, predatory drift is common

enough that most dog people have either witnessed it or know someone who has. The risks multiply if both factors are present. Another obvious factor that increases risk is the involvement of a known predatory dog in the mix, especially a finisher.

SWCDP Playground Tips

- Read SWCDP User Guide
- We have an **Alternate Dog Park** for small, shy, low energy, or recovering, handicapped dogs.
- Keep collar on dog and leash in hand – always
- **EYES WIDE OPEN** Be ready to respond before things escalate
- Divert attention, find another play activity or go to different part of the park, as needed
- Rough & tumble play should be one on one – Multi-dog pile up is a fight waiting to happen
- Your dog needs to use his/her mind as much as he/she needs to exercise and socialize
- Let your dog be a dog – Do not over-compensate or constantly correct "normal" dog play

Remember Key Play Styles

Rough & Physical

Mouth Wrestler / Bitey Face

Chase & Be Chased

Scare & Be Scared

Fun Police

Just Hangin'

**No Tag No Admittance
No Exception**

All dogs on playground must be current SWCDP members

2013 Renovation ... and More



We thought 2012 was a pretty big year – with the new Water Station (2, 3, & 4) installations and BIG DIG I & II – a lot of action and excellent improvements. And, of course, much planning and fund raising – and looking to the future.

But, everything really came together in 2013. A very productive year. Many projects were completed and a few things are still being developed for completion in 2014.



The primary goal and reason for Southwest City Dog Park --- is to offer a top-notch off-leash dog play area.

Fun and Safe

If the humans are happy and enjoy their dog park visits – they will bring their 4-Leggeds more frequently. Doggies win!

4-Leggeds cannot drive themselves to the dog park

**Happy humans are good for 4-Leggeds
Happy 4-Leggeds are good for humans**

90 Day Renovation ... and More

• Turf Management & Repair

- Annual end of season clean-up
- Soil repair & adjustments
- Re-seed
- Expanded front garden

• BIG DIG III

- Install freeze-proof Water Station 5
- Minor turf re-grade
- Dog Wash

• Comfort, Safety, New Amenities

- Benches and picnic tables
- New message boards
- New signage
- Agility safety sashes
- Expanded & organized storage areas
- Recycle cans; extra general trash cans
- Lever handle for front gate
- Retrofitted winter shelter (*raised the roof*)
- First Aid Kit
- Boot-Shoe cleaner

New Front Entry – Coming in 2014

To compliment dog park upgrades and safety efforts, funds have been earmarked in the St Louis City Parks Department budget for improvements to our entry slope. The Parks Department will assign a design team to evaluate and design an ADA compliant pathway from street to our front gate. Details and dates are still under development but completion is projected for 2014. Before summer, we will also receive several trees to plant along the fence line in Main (on the ball field side) and in Alternate around water station, intended to relieve some of the water build up in those areas.

Manage Turf



Enlarged storage area



For days, we tilled and tilled and tilled



Hauled in new dirt; moved existing dirt



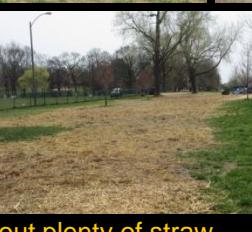
Added more French Drains



And aerated



And seeded



Put away the winter shelter



And spread out plenty of straw

March, April, May were the key turf management months – and for two weeks in April – our volunteer crews did an amazing amount of work; including moving several loads of dirt from the Dog Wash site, handling a new truck load of dirt, and a large amount of grass seed and bales of straw. And more...

And – Let Mother Nature do her thing



Manage Turf

Continued



Volunteers returned in May to prepare our grounds for the 2013-2014 Season opening. Mother Nature was in a feisty mood this particular Spring – with snow in April and an extremely cold and wet spring – our new seedlings struggled to get strong...but in the end we had a fantastic and green summer and fall.

Thank You SWCDP Volunteers



Before



After



Our expanded garden

Our Green Phase

About a dozen members donated beautiful flowers and plants for our new garden
Thank You!

Newsletter 2013 ... Page 21

Wilbur approves green lush grass

BIG DIG III

Dog Wash



Trench for freeze proof water line



The big rig

7 yards of gravel



Digging massive amounts of dirt



French Drain System



Filling in the open trench

Topping off with gravel



Now, back to Bob's workshop – to build the Dog Wash table – and shop for hoses and other supplies.

Dog Wash

Open Year Round

Did You Know?



Winter
Too



Happy
Users

Fresh Look & Human Comforts



Bring
a towel
to dry
off those
freshly
washed
paws

Water Station Schedule

Station 1

Original Water Faucet Freeze proof – use from Nov 1 – March 31

Station 2

Water Bowl (no hose bib), located next to Station 1 Not freeze proof – use from April 1 – October 31

Station 3

Water Bowl (with hose bib), located in back of dog park Not freeze proof – use from April 1 – October 31

Station 4

Water Bowl (with hose bib), located in Alternate dog park Not freeze proof – use from April 1 – October 31

Station 5

Dog Wash Hydrant, located off Entry Area Freeze proof – use year round

Picnics Tables & Benches



Thanks

Bobbi N

(Zipper, May, Biscuit, Maureen, Cowboy)

For making & donating our gorgeous agility sashes

2-Leggeds, Too!

Muddy shoes . . . Stop by Dog Wash and wipe off before you get into your car.

Clean paws for all



New & expanded storage
FIRST AID in vertical storage

Our Brown Phase



King approves
straw play pyramid

First Shelter

December 2010



Season 2010-2011



Season 2013-2014

Our progression over four seasons



Season 2010-2011



Season 2011-2012



Season 2012-2013



Bob's Shop



We've come a long way . . .



Thanks to Tom C (Blake, Prima, Ruby, Sheegwa) for identifying a problem – frozen humans – and coming up with a solution. Our first shelter started out as bales of straw, and the humans huddled in there to get out of the wind. Then, Tom moved it and strapped the tarp over the fence for a make-shift frame. The humans loved it – but the wind had its way with it, too.

Next season, along comes Bob H (King) with his carpentry skills and fondness for a construction challenge.

In 2011, Bob did another make shift shelter, bringing in materials from his shop. Well, now we were really on to something – the humans wanted more.

So, SWCDP management got involved, approved modest funds, and after several design meetings with Bob and shopping trips...Bob designed and built the 2012 version. Our 2013 model was retrofitted to make the roof a bit higher.

The shelter was the highest rated improvement in our member survey.

Can we keep shelter up year round? No. Shelter goes up just before Thanksgiving and comes down at end of Season. It is considered a “temporary structure”. Anything permanent would need complicated approvals & permits.

Advertising Free Zone

You may have noticed, SWCDP communications, such as, Newsletters, Quickie News, Website, Primary Message Board are free of any paid advertising. This has been the SWCDP policy for many years, if not forever – and we plan to keep it that way. Since we are all continuously bombarded with ads and unsolicited information – most of us likely suffer from *Info Overload*. We feel, and hope you agree, that our dog park is an escape from all of that – a place to simply enjoy our 4-Legged pals, the outdoors, and camaraderie of like-minded people. We want our communiqués to reflect this thinking. The SWCDP communication culture ensures that everything we offer or send is very specific to the interests of our dog park members, sans outside hype. We do not sell advertising space and we never sell or share our member contact information with outside organizations.

From time to time, you will see a thank you or recognition of a member or outside source

who has donated goods and services to Southwest City Dog Park. A slight nod in their direction is our way of saying “Thank You”. Please consider using their goods / services as way of showing our appreciation of their donations to our dog park.

SWCDP Community Message Board

We do allow limited promotional flyers on our small message board, located in entry area.

We are pleased to introduce another service for SWCDP members. Our members now have a **Community Message Board** for like-interest topics. We ask that you follow the guidelines below so that our board does not become cluttered with obsolete or inappropriate items and allows enough room for all to participate, as needed.

Message Boards



SWCDP Community Message Board

What is Allowed

Keep board dedicated to topics that are informational, fun, and/or useful tips or leads for SWCDP members.

- Lost & Found Flyers
- Dog Events; Rescue Events
- Other Community Events
- Available Goods/Services (provided by members)
- Help Wanted (needed by members)
- Personal items for sale – swap – or donation
- Items of likely interest to general membership

What is Not Allowed

Do not post flyers which contain info that could be offensive or disruptive to general membership.

- No political signage (candidate or ballot items)
- No religious signage (community events held at related venues are fine)
- No risqué or controversial signage

Please – be very careful with the tacks – don't let any fall to the ground, where our dogs might get them!

Capacity

No larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches; smaller size strongly recommended, especially for flyers promoting a business, keep it small

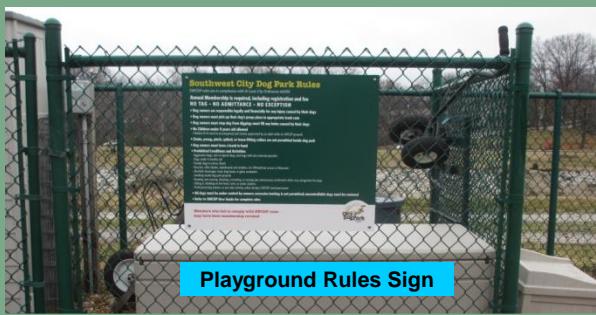
Duration

To be taken down at event expiration date or at 60 days, which ever comes first
(you may always re-post)

Legitimacy

Every post must be sponsored by a SWCDP member; put your name on back of flyer so we may contact you

2013 Signage Project



Donations & Gifts Needed

We always need gift certificates or nice gifts to give to our members as prizes at various events or meetings. If you know of a business (or member) in a position to be a SWCDP donor, please let us know. Naturally, gifts related to canine world are good – but a beverage or meal at a nice restaurant, tickets to a fun event, a shopping treat at a popular store, or even cash. We also welcome gift cards to help with special grounds management activities (e.g., Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.) *Get something to give?*

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



This project has actually been in development for two years – so we are particularly excited to see it become a reality in 2013. The entire dog park has undergone a complete sign upgrade. Some of this was by necessity, as over the years, a few of our signs were damaged, lost, or simply faded out. We also lacked certain information required by the St Louis City Parks Department.

Phase One, the largest portion, is done. Phase Two, will be done in 2014, to include signage for the Agility area and summer activities, such as pool and hoses.

Our signs are informative and yet boast a fun and upscale appearance, thanks to the graphics design work donated by Sloan C (Augie, Sylvia). The new look compliments our updated logo from 2011 and our recently expanded front garden, new message boards, and dog wash – from the 2013-2014 renovation project.

