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Introduction

Welcome to "Paw Prints", the newsletter of the Lakewood Dog Park! This edition marks the beginning of summer and the last edition before we go to trial with Rocky River on July 8th (see below). We hope you enjoy reading it and find it valuable. This newsletter and past editions are available online. Visit our website at www.LakewoodDogPark.org to learn more, or to join our email list. For questions, email topdog@lakewooddogpark.org. Enjoy!

Recent News

- Hey, are we missing a tree?! Yes, one of the crab apple trees nearest the water fountain blew over in the recent storm. Thanks to the volunteers who helped cut it up and get it out of the park.
- Our spring pizza party fundraiser at Johnny Malloy's was a huge success. Everyone had a great time and plenty to eat and drink. We also raised over \$900 for the park!
- Congratulations to Guinness and Graham's parents for winning our t-shirt design contest! The back of our shirts this year will read:

"My goal is to someday be the person my dog thinks I am. ~Author Unknown"

The t-shirts will be available starting May 22nd. (see [upcoming events](#))

- We have a new webpage outlining our [policies](#). Right now, we are starting off with one policy about how we handle complaints, but we expect the page to grow in the future.
- Over 20 people showed up to help us during our Spring Clean Up Day! The park looks great, Thank You!

Quarterly Meeting and Save the Dog Park Meeting

Sunday, May 23rd at 6:30pm and Sunday, June 6th at 2:00pm

Our last quarterly meeting before our trial date will be a great time for you to ask questions and find out what is happening at the park and where we stand with regards to the lawsuit against the park. We hope to have a representative from Mayor FitzGerald's office or Lakewood's Law office there. A detailed agenda will be available online before the meeting, but we will have ample time to answer your questions and hear what you have to say.

The quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, May 23rd, 2010, at 6:30 pm in the multi-purpose room of Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107. It is open to anyone from any city who wishes to save the park or who wants to know more about the dog park.

If you wish to Save Lakewood Dog Park, the right place to be is at the dog park on Sunday, June 6th at 2:00pm. In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the Lakewood Library. [Keep reading](#) to find out more about this important meeting.

Upcoming Events

- [Dog Park Lawsuit Trial](#) - July 8th.
- [4th of July Parade](#) - Walk your dog in Lakewood's 4th of July Parade! This is always a fun event for humans and dogs alike
- [T-Shirt Sales Day](#) - This year's dog park t-shirts are available starting on May 22nd in the morning. This year, the back will read "My goal is to someday be the person my dog thinks I am. ~Author Unknown" Don't miss out!
- We hope to be filming a short promotional film clip at the dog park in the very near future. We aren't sure when this will happen due to weather, but check back to the website soon!
- Look for a casual dog walking group to start forming soon. This will be a good way to get some extra exercise and see more of the beautiful metro parks. If you are interested in this, contact topdog@lakewooddogpark.org

Save Lakewood Dog Park Committee to Prepare for Trial

by Karen Karp and Kent Cicerchi, co-chairs

A lawsuit brought by the City of Rocky River and four of its residents against the City of Lakewood and the users of Lakewood Dog Park still looms over the off-leash facility as a black cloud, threatening its future. Negotiations between the two cities that have continued over the past five months have failed to produce a resolution to which both sides could agree. Currently, the trial

date is set for July 8 in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. With the trial less than two months away, the time has come for fans of Lakewood Dog Park to redouble their efforts to save it. The next meeting of the Save the Dog Park Committee will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at the dog park. Please bring a lawn chair. (In case of inclement weather, the meeting will take place in the auditorium of the Lakewood Public Library - Main Branch, 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.)

City of Rocky River, et al. v. City of Lakewood, et al., was filed in July, 2007, and centers around three issues: (1) "consistent, uncontrollable, unregulated and/or loud barking by the dogs"; (2) "consistent, uncontrollable, unregulated and/or foul-smelling defecation and urination by the dogs"; and (3) "snapping and/or biting of humans and other dogs by the dogs." The Friends of Lakewood Dog Park formed a "Save the Dog Park Committee" to demonstrate the strong support for the park by raising public awareness of the lawsuit and by encouraging those who use the park, along with their allies, to contact public officials of Rocky River in the hope that they might decide to halt further the legal action.

In November, 2009, FLDP President Chad Bray and committee co-chairs Karen Karp and Kent Cicerchi met with the mayors of both cities and other public officials to discuss settlement options. In the meantime, other members of the committee distributed flyers, posters and bumper stickers; circulated petitions of support; sold buttons or other items, such as T-shirts and sweatshirts, promoting the dog park generally; created and hung a banner in recognition of the mutual benefits of the park; staffed an information table at the dog park to answer questions about the lawsuit; used the FLDP website both as a source of information and as an opportunity for advocacy; increased the park's presence on Facebook; and composed a position paper regarding various suggestions made to mitigate the barking alleged in the complaint.

In further efforts to raise awareness and to protest the demands of the lawsuit, the FLDP organized a public rally and dog march, which it intended to hold in Rocky River on Saturday, December 5. In response to an eleventh hour request by Lakewood Mayor Ed FitzGerald and Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst to cancel or move the event, the FLDP agreed to relocate the rally near the entrance to the dog park and to limit the protest march to a small portion of Detroit Road connecting the two cities.

A month later, the Friends of Lakewood Dog Park were again requested to accommodate the plaintiffs. Rocky River Law Director Andrew Bemer directly requested in an email that the FLDP and its allies refrain from anything that might, in his words, fuel the flames or be deleterious to the settlement efforts. The resident plaintiffs, Michael and Carol Buddie and Timothy and Lynn Merriman, who caused their city to bring this lawsuit, reside on a street which sits atop the western ridge of the Rocky River valley behind a densely wooded expanse of the Cleveland MetroParks. It should be noted that the plaintiffs' properties overlook not only the dog park, but the adjacent Lakewood Waste Water Treatment plant, which has been at that location since the early 1900's. The City of Rocky River has not responded to recent requests for documents under the Freedom of Information Act. However, as of September 30, 2009, the City had spent in excess of \$12,000 of taxpayers' funds on this legal action.

The Friends of Lakewood Dog Park is the volunteer group that maintains the park grounds for the City of Lakewood at no expense to taxpayers. The group provides clean-up bags, sponsors periodic work days to redistribute gravel which has found its way down the park's sloping grade or through the chain-link fence into the driveway and parking lot, paints and repairs park benches, and has erected an information kiosk. FLDP operates on a modest budget funded primarily through non-mandatory membership dues, an annual dog swim and other fundraising events, the sale of promotional items, such as T-shirts and sweatshirts and buttons, and contributions.

Furry Friends Spotlight

Weimaraner (Annie the Wonder Dog)

by Susan Sabik

Our Furry Friend this month is Annie the Wonder Dog. Annie is a bubbly, pure bred Weimaraner with a couple of part time jobs; she is a greeter at the Cleveland Clinic and a therapy dog at the Berea Children's Home. In her spare time, Annie hangs out with her friends (both human and K9) at the Lakewood Dog Park, playing the role of "playground supervisor". Annie also has had the new kiosk at the dog park dedicated in her name at the request of her generous owner and friend of Lakewood Dog Park, Bill Freund.

The Weimaraner (WYE-ma-rah-ner or VYE-ma-rah-ner) is a dog that was originally bred for hunting in the early 19th century. Early Weimaraners were used by royalty for hunting large game, such as boar, bears, deer, and foxes. The Weimaraner is loyal and loving to his family, an incredible hunter, and a fearless guardian of his family and territory. The name comes from the Grand Duke of Weimer, Karl August, whose court enjoyed hunting.

Weimaraners are fast and powerful dogs, but are suitable home animals given appropriate training and exercise. They are also highly intelligent, sensitive and problem-solving animals, which earned them an epithet "dog with a human brain". They are ranked 21st in Stanley Coren's *The Intelligence of Dogs*, being of excellent working/obedience intelligence. This breed of dog tends to be very stubborn. A properly trained Weimaraner is a wonderful companion that will never leave its master's side. The Weimaraner has been given the appellation "Velcro Dog", as when once acclimated to its master, sticks to its master at all times. Many Weimaraners tend to lean on their master when sitting or standing.

It is always a pleasure to see Annie at the dog park. When you see her, please give her a pat on the head and a "good dog!" for all of the service work that she does!



Landscaping Safety

by Tamara Lentini

Warm weather is upon us and it is time to start thinking about your yard - and your neighbor's yard - and the yard of the house down the block. This is the time of year that people begin their landscaping projects. This may include: mulching, fertilizing, de-bugging, and growing beautiful plants. While all these may improve the appearance of the yard, they each pose potential hazards for our pets.

- **Mulch:** Many mulches are sprayed with chemicals to impede weed growth and these may be toxic to your pets. A new type of mulch that is gaining popularity in our area is Cocoa Shell

mulch. This is very dangerous to your pet as it contains high concentrations of Theobromide, the ingredient in cocoa and chocolate that may be lethal to animals.

- Fertilizer and Insecticides: When fertilizer is first applied, it may be toxic to pets and children. Bug and weed killing liquids may also be hazardous to pets and humans when wet.
- Plants: Many plants are toxic to animals and you should be aware of these plants. Also plants with long grasses or leaves may get stuck in the intestines and cause problems.

Please remember all these potential hazards when out with your dog this summer. These hazards may appear on walks, at visits to friends or in your own backyard. Use caution and watch your pet carefully to prevent ingestion of harmful items.

A Look at the Rules

Keeping Your Puppy Healthy at the Park

by Sarah Luikart

Spring has sprung and so has the most popular time of year to adopt a new dog into your family. As the weather continues to warm up, many people find themselves with an itch to get a puppy. Whether your reasons for getting a puppy are to rescue, encourage yourself to get into shape, or to find unconditional love, there are many things to know when trying to keep your new puppy healthy.

As you may have noticed on the bulletin board or metal signs on the entrance gates at the park, rule #9 prohibits the attendance of any dog under four months of age. While it is a good idea to socialize your dog from an early age, this rule is for the protection of your puppy. With the same reasons that you should avoid taking a puppy to your local pet store before four months of age, the same applies to the dog park as the health risks are far too dangerous.

Just like human babies, a puppy's immune system is not yet developed enough to fight off serious, and often fatal, infections prior to four months of age. Without the ability to defend itself against the various diseases that communicably spread amongst dogs, your puppy is at risk for a serious illness should one of these diseases be contracted. Additionally, the thought of your veterinarian bills after fighting one of these infections would be enough to scare anyone!

One of the more common infections found in puppies is the parvovirus (parvo). The virus can be transmitted through oral contact of infected feces or soil, and as we have all witnessed, puppies seem to gravitate toward feces. Parvovirus can be treated through a financially draining set of medical treatments, but often times can prove to be fatal if not diagnosed in time.

Canine distemper is another disease that you should vaccinate your dog against. Puppies and their weakened immune systems prove to be likely targets of contracting this viral disease. Distemper can be spread through the air, infected bodily fluids or shared food and water.

Canine hepatitis, while not as discussed as parvo or distemper, is a serious disease that plagues many dogs. The transmission occurs through the exchange of all bodily fluids, and if exposed, could potentially cause liver or kidney failure in your pup.

Canine Coronavirus is a highly contagious intestinal disease that is spread through the feces of infected dogs. As with many of the other referenced illnesses, it simply takes a messy step into a pile of infected feces to bring such a threatening disease into your home. Again, while this and the other diseases are contractable by all dogs, puppies are much more susceptible due to their underdeveloped immune systems.

Puppies tend to be full of worms and often bloat easily. When a puppy suffers from worms (of any type), stomachs distend and their bowels are subject to colicky pain. Additionally, the infected puppies do not grow as rapidly as healthy puppies, and instead of playing, they curl up and sleep. Their small bodies get thinner, weaker and more lifeless from day to day. As with any area that

holds multiple dogs, the possibility of an affected dog at the park is present.

So, while there are many, many diseases that we could warn you about to insure the safety of your puppy, the most effective way to prevent disease is to refrain from utilizing the park until your puppy has matured beyond four months. On their four-month birthday, the patrons of the park will gladly welcome your puppy to romp and play with the big dogs!

Maintenance Notes

by Mike Lambert

Did you know that the Lakewood Dog Park patrons use over 90,000 Dogi-Pot waste bags per year? The bags cost about \$100 per case and contain 6,000 bags per case. If you do the math, that is over \$1,500 per year in bags. That is part of the reason that we do the fundraisers and ask for donations.

Some people ask why we don't use plastic grocery bags. We considered this on several occasions, but there are a few drawbacks to the plastic bags from groceries. For one thing they tend to get loose from storage since they are not attached to each other like the Dogi-Pot bags we use from the dispensers. That means they can blow around the park and blow into the neighboring Metroparks. I don't know about you, but I would hate to see these bags all over the ground and dangling from the trees in the park. Second, and even more important, the Dogi-Pot bags are biodegradable. That means that they will break-down in the dump and not last 25 years sitting in a landfill.

If you would like to read more about the Dogi-Pot bags that we use, you can visit their website at <http://www.dogipot.com>.

I have noticed that we are getting many plastic milk/juice containers left at the park. Unfortunately I have had to throw these into the trash because we do not have recycling collected at the park. It would be really helpful if you can take these containers back home with you if you bring them down. And don't forget that the water fountain is now turned on for the summer! Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Thanks for your continued support of the Lakewood Dog Park.

Everyday Dog Treats

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

- 2 teaspoons dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 2 tablespoons dry parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 egg
- 5-6 cups whole wheat flour

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Stir in the parsley, garlic, broth, honey, and egg. Gradually blend in flour, adding enough to form a stiff dough.

Transfer to a floured surface and knead until smooth (about 3-5 minutes). Shape the dough into a ball and roll to 1/4-inch thick. Cut out cookies with a cookie cutter and transfer to ungreased baking sheets. Gather up the scraps, roll out again, and cut additional biscuits.

Bake for 30 minutes, flip and bake for an additional 15 minutes, or until lightly browned on both sides. Let cool.

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