

Published Quarterly

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**WE NEED
VOLUNTEERS!**

We have many events being planned – if you want to help, email us at: volunteer@gratefuldogs.org

THANK YOU!

Email Version?

We will be offering an email version of **The Grateful Dogs Scoop** starting in spring 2005.

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter electronically, please email Nate at: nathanmelanson@yahoo.com

The first issue of 2005 will arrive via email!

Membership Info:

To change your address or for membership questions, please contact Anara at 671-4193 or email smilined@yahoo.com



The Grateful Dogs Scoop

GRATEFUL DOGS OFF-LEASH ASSOCIATION
3930 Meridian Street, Suite, 291
Bellingham, WA 98226
www.gratefuldogs.org

January 2005

From the Doghouse

Hail to our canine friends. We hope you are enjoying the various off-leash areas in town and are having the time of your life. We know how your expression changes into smiles and relaxation as you get off leash to run and socialize. Besides taking us to the parks to play, our guardians have continued working on our behalf in other arenas.

This summer and fall our guardians attended all of the public input meetings for the newly proposed Squalicum Fields park on Squalicum Parkway. As a result, the parks plan includes a fenced two-acre area for us to play. The plan has yet to get final approval, but when it does, only phase one of the park plan will be implemented. Our off leash area is part of phase two, which is many years down the road. However, since the Grateful Dogs board won approval to become incorporated, they are working to win non-profit status. As soon as that gets approved, they can go forward with fundraising plans to start fencing the designated off-leash area of the newly proposed park site so we can see something going on in our lifetime.

Also, our guardians have met with city parks personnel and have discussed other possible off-leash areas in the city, including limited times in some popular parks.

One parks person, Dick Henrie, has looked ardently throughout the city on our behalf because he also has a dog. We are very encouraged by his thoughtful efforts at looking for potential spots for us to play.

We can't always choose the best place to "relieve" ourselves in public, but this gives our guardians a chance to model responsible dog ownership to others and provides opportunities for them to educate the public. Another part of educating the public is for our guardians to recruit more new members so that our organization has

IMPORTANT MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
at Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Meeting Room at 511 E. Holly
(next to Kinko's)

Dick Henrie Bellingham City Parks will be there to fill us in on the progress of the "Animals in Parks Committee." They have been working on new rules, new areas for "Off Leash." He would also like our input. Dick Henrie is a dog owner and an important friend for us to have in the Parks Department.

clout and credibility that dogs and owners need recreational spaces in the community.

If any of you have recent pictures at off-leash areas or at parties, ask your guardians to submit some to Nate Melanson to post at our website.

We recently discovered the fenced off-leash area at Lake Padden, but that's another story inside this edition. Happy running, playing, sniffing, chasing and rubbing in who-knows-what at the off-leash sites!

Sunny and Reesha (Anara Thomas)

Listings are a service provided for businesses that join Grateful Dogs at the Business Level. Please contact Anara at 671-4193 or email smilined@yahoo.com for more information.

Pet Sitters & Boarding

Bellingham Bay Pet Nannies
Full service pet sitting & dog walking.
(360) 734-PETS

Tails-A-Wagging

Pet Sitting Service, Doggie Day Care & Obedience Training.
2123 Lincoln St
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-PETS (7387)

Pet Grooming

City Dogs
Grooming for your best friend.
(360) 756-9515

Pet Shelters/Rescue

Whatcom Humane Society
3710 Williamson Way
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 733-2080

**Alternative Humane Society
Of Whatcom County**

PO Box 2321
Bellingham, WA 98227
(360) 733-2088

Pet Stores/Food

Pet Panache
Natural Pet Products
1901 State St.
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 671-0116

Hohl Feed & Seed Co.

1322 Railroad Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 734-0300

PetStop

The Pet Food Experts!
Sehome Village
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 738-3663

Petco

Where the pets go!
189 East Bakerview Road
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 715-3785

Other Services

KC Coonc, Realtor

Fairhaven Realty
1100 11th St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
Office: (360) 676-8990
Cell: (360) 305-9977
Email: kc@fairhavenrealty.com
www.realestatebykc.com

Summit Assistance Dogs

By Deb Hall

Summit Assistance Dogs is a non-profit organization based in Anacortes that provides highly-skilled assistance dogs for people with disabilities, primarily in Washington State. Established in 2000, Summit was founded in response to the overwhelming need for more trained assistance dogs. Over 55 million Americans are living with disabilities and of those who desire partnership with a canine helpmate, only 1% are able to receive one due to a shortage of trained dogs. Only one other organization provides similar services in Washington State. Summit provides dogs for people with mobility and hearing impairments, as well as therapy dogs for medically fragile young children and institutions such as hospitals, schools and long-term care facilities. Assistance dogs increase independence for people with disabilities by performing many tasks such as opening/closing doors, turning on/off lights, retrieving dropped items, getting the phone in case of emergency and alerting hearing-impaired people to various sounds such as doorbells, alarms, the telephone, or a crying baby. Most importantly, they alleviate depression and loneliness by providing unconditional love and companionship.

Individuals are chosen to receive a dog based solely on their need and ability to care for an assistance dog, regardless of income, race, class, gender, age or ethnicity. The financial benefits of assistance dogs to disabled individuals, already burdened with high medical costs, are great.

“Summit is so much more than your average non-profit organization. It is a family. Each dog, and later dog and partner, become lifetime members of the Summit family.”

---Debbie Craig, a Summit trainer and Bellingham resident,

An assistance dog working an average of eight years can substantially reduce the cost of ongoing care staff and many people find they require less medication for depression and anxiety. Most assistance dogs are valued between \$15,000 and \$20,000. The vast majority of our applicants are unable pay for their dogs. We encourage them to contribute as they are able and then offer scholarships so that no one is denied a dog based on financial ability. Summit relies on the generosity of our donors to make these dogs available to all who desire them. We offer lifetime training support to all our assistance dog partnerships. Many of the dogs trained by Summit are rescued from shelters thereby providing these animals a new “leash on life”.

Accomplishments

Since 2000, Summit has graduated and/or certified almost twenty assistance dog teams, residing all



“Summit demo dog Baker gets the phone”

Summit Assistance Dogs...cont. from page 2

over Western Washington, including Whatcom County. In fact, one of our first placements was with a young girl with multiple disabilities in Bellingham. She and her canine pal, Butter, are still together and Butter continues to help Kristine grow and learn and be happy.

Objectives & Strategies

Sandra Larsen was desperate for an assistance dog. In 1975, her left arm required amputation after her husband threw her onto the tracks of an oncoming train. Seven years later she was the victim of domestic violence again, this time resulting in a broken neck and back. "Having a dog can give me back some of my independence", says Sandra. "I don't want to be a burden to my family and I don't want to have to live out the rest of my life in a nursing home. I live alone and having a dog would make it safer for me. I'm hoping that having a dog will make me more approachable and that people will realize that my body is disabled, not my mind." In August of 2003 Sandra's dream became reality when she was paired with Thor, a Golden Retriever trained by Summit. Summit currently has over twenty applicants like Sandra who are waiting up to three years to receive an assistance dog. Our objective is to graduate 7 - 10 dogs a year. But to do this, we need



"Summit demo dog Baker, retrieves the cane"

many donations from generous, giving people, businesses, and foundations, and the help of many dedicated volunteers from around the area. One on-going need is for puppy raisers/foster families for our dogs in training.


"He that lieth
with the dogs,
riseth with fleas."
--- **George Herbert**

Contact Information

Summit Assistance Dogs is a 501 (c)(3) organization which makes all donations tax-deductible within the limits of the law. If you are interested in donating to Summit, please send your donations to Summit Assistance Dogs, 5458 W. Shore Road, Anacortes, WA 98221. If you are interested in volunteering for Summit, please contact Lydia at Lydia@ldhtranscriptions.net. If you are interested in a demonstration by Summit or more information about the organization, please contact Deb at deb@summitdogs.org or call (360)293-5609.

Specialized Cross Breed Dogs

- Pointer X Setter = Poinsetter, a traditional Christmas pet
- Kerry Blue Terrier X Skye Terrier = Blue Skye, a dog for visionaries
- Great Pyrenees X Dachshund = Pyradachs, a puzzling breed
- Pekingese X Lhasa Apso = Peekasso, an abstract dog
- Spaniel X English Springer Spaniel = Irish Springer, a dog fresh and clean as a whistle
- Labrador Retriever X Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of research scientists
- Newfoundland X Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound, a dog for financial advisors
- Terrier X Bulldog = Terribull, a dog that makes awful mistakes
- Bloodhound X Labrador = Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly
- Malamute X Pointer = Moot Point, owned by....oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway
- **When in Rome...**
- In Scotland, a strange dog coming to the house means a new friendship;
- in England, to meet a spotted or black and white dog on your way to a business appointment is lucky.
- Three white dogs seen together are considered lucky in some areas;
- black dogs are generally considered unlucky, especially if they cross a traveller's path or follow someone and refuse to be driven away.
- Fishermen traditionally regard dogs as unlucky and will not take one out in a boat, or mention the word 'dog' whilst at sea.



**ALTERNATIVE
HUMANE
SOCIETY OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

Adoptable pets are shown at PETSMAST (360) 671-7445

email: adoptanewpet@hotmail.com PO Box 2321
www.alternativehumanesociety.com Bellingham, WA 98227



Membership Application

www.gratefuldogs.org

NAME: _____ DOGS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email, please check box

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: NEW _____ RENEW _____

(Circle one) FAMILY \$10 INDIVIDUAL \$6 BUSINESS SPONSOR \$25

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: _____

Please mail this form with your check to the treasurer at:
GRATEFUL DOGS, 3930 Meridian St, Suite C 2-91, Bellingham, WA 98226

About Grateful Dogs

The Grateful Dogs Off-Leash Association is a community organization that acts to protect and enhance our off-leash recreation areas, as well as to promote all aspects of responsible dog ownership. Why should you join us? Your membership in Grateful Dogs expresses your commitment to helping to insure the present desig-

nated areas of the city will continue to be available for off-leash recreation. The future of off-leash recreation in this or any community is dependent upon your supporting organizations such as ours. Please join us and send in your membership form. Membership information is also available on our website at www.gratefuldogs.org.



FAIRHAVEN REALTY
a branch of Lakeway Realty, Inc.

1100 - 11th St. Bellingham, WA 98225

Office: (360) 676-8990, 1-800-736-6545
Fax: (360) 734-6109
Cell: (360) 305-9977
E-mail: kc@fairhavenrealty.com
www.realestatebykc.com

KC Coonc, ABR
Realtor



Upcoming Poop Scoop Party Dates...

Post Point: *First Saturday of the month: 9am-11am*
Saturday, January 1
Saturday, February 5

Blodel Donovan: *First Thursday of the month: 9am-11am*
Thursday, January 6
Thursday, February 3

Lake Padden: *Second Saturday of the month: 2pm-4pm*
Saturday, January 8
Thursday, February 12



GRATEFUL DOGS OFF LEASH ASSOCIATION

3930 Meridian Street, Ste. 291
Bellingham, WA 98226

*Do you have a pet-related business?
Consider advertising in this newsletter!*



Inside this issue:

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- ✓ From the Dog House