

## BELLINGHAM OFF LEASH AREAS

For a complete listing and directions visit [www.gratefuldogs.org](http://www.gratefuldogs.org)

**Arroyo Park:** All trails.

**Lake Padden Park:** See website for complete description.

**Sunset Pond and Bug Lake:** All trails, plus the water is designated for water exercise and training area.

**Whatcom Falls Park:** All trails across Whatcom Creek stone bridge north of the creek.

**Post Point Treatment Area:** The field, trails and the lagoon water designated area adjacent to the treatment facility are open for dog training and exercise.

**Sehome Hill Arboretum:** All secondary trails. Dogs must be on leashes on all paved trails plus the Jersey Street and Arboretum Walkway.

**Little Squalicum Park:** All trails, plus the water, are designated for water exercise and training area.

**Bloedel Donovan Park:** The Park is designated an off leash park only from November 1 to May 1, from 6am-10am.

**Tennant Lake Wetlands Trail:** Trails through marsh, meadow and forest include a one-mile boardwalk loop, a dike trail along the Nooksack River (follow road behind center) and a half-mile trail to Hovander Homestead Park.

### No Dogs Allowed.

A guy wanted to take his Chihuahua into a restaurant with him, so he put on dark glasses and "tapped" his way into the establishment.

The waiter said "Hey!, you can't bring a dog in here."

The man indignantly claimed "I'm blind! ... this is my Seeing Eye dog!"

"You're trying to tell me" said the waiter, "that this Chihuahua is a Seeing Eye dog?"

"What????!!", cried the man, "they gave me a Chihuahua?"

## Fenced Off-Leash Park

By Mollie Faulkner

A first for Bellingham! It's happening, the fencing is up, the double security gates are in, and the dog's drinking fountain works. Lake Padden Park's 2.5 acres off leash area is becoming a reality. It is all thanks to Marvin Harris, operations manager at Bellingham City Parks. Who carefully researched how it should be (with some input from Grateful Dogs Association). He secured the funding and is overseeing the whole project. He describes it as a work in progress. There will eventually be a shelter, some picnic tables and even a foot-washing place to clean-up doggies after they have slopped around in the mud. The mud problem will improve in time especially when the grass is able to grow. But really, is there any offleash area in Bellingham, that isn't a sea of mud right now?

Signage for the gates, dispenser and garbage cans will also happen. In the meantime it is all useable. Be sure


and take plastic bags with you and dump the full bags in the can across the parking lot. We need to let the Parks department and especially Harris know how much we appreciate this park by taking good care of it and following the



Anara and friends trying the drinking fountain.

rules. My poor dog who hasn't been "off leash" for a couple of years (unless we took him to Magnusson Park in Seattle) because he chases bicycles, loves Lake Padden, it is great to see him chasing a ball and playing with the other dogs and getting some good exercise.

Directions. South on Samish Way take the South entrance to the Park, bare to the right to the picnic areas go to the end of the road. There is parking on the left.

**MAPLEWOOD ANIMAL HOSPITAL, PLLC**  
DAVID A. RABKIN, D.V.M.  
2869 West Maplewood Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Telephone: (360) 715-1430  
Fax: (360) 715-9950

**Bellingham Bed & Biscuit®**  
Kennel-Free Boarding  
Doggie Daycare  
  
(360) 398-9880  
5028 Hannegan Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
[www.bellinghambedandbiscuit.com](http://www.bellinghambedandbiscuit.com)

"The reason a dog has so many friends, is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue"  
- Anonymous

## Why Spay or Neuter?

By Betsy Daniels

Alternative Humane Society

Who doesn't love young puppies or kittens? Why not have at least one litter? They're so cute! Here's why. There aren't enough homes for all of them. Millions of dogs and cats are killed annually or end up as strays as a result. But surely purebreds don't end up like that! Guess again. There simply aren't enough homes to go around no matter what the breed.

There also are certain benefits in spaying (female) or neutering (male) for both your pet and you. Spayed and neutered animals are better behaved and center on their people rather than focusing on breeding. Females in heat attract males from great distances, and males run the risk of traffic accidents and injuries from fights with other males.

In addition, your pet achieves some health benefits from sterilization. Dogs and cats are at risk for some of the same diseases as we humans. Spaying helps prevent breast cancer and pyometra (pus-filled uterus), and neutering prevents testicular cancer, prostate disease and hernias.

So, be a responsible pet caretaker and spay or neuter before six months for your peace of mind and for your pets good health. Know that you are preventing the needless killing of those unfortunate dogs and cats for whom there is no home.

The Alternative Humane Society offers vouchers to help defray the cost of spaying and neutering. All veterinarians in Whatcom County accept these vouchers. Simply call AHS at 671-7445, ext. 1. Leave your name, complete address and phone number, and we will send you an application. Fill out the form, mail it back, and you will be sent a voucher to be used at the vet of your choice.

The Whatcom Humane Society also has a spay neuter assistance program called SNAP for low-income residents. WHS may be contacted at 733-2080 for more information.

Help is there. Do the right thing!

"The dog represents  
all that is best in man."

**--Etienne Charlet**

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

Share the strangest traits or habits your dog has for an upcoming article in the Grateful Dogs Newsletter. Do you have an inspiring or humorous story to share about you best four-legged friend? Please email your comments and/or stories of 400 words or less to Jean at:  
Jean\_webster@comcast.net

## My Dog Can Read by Bev McQuain

I was introducing my dog to a restaurant under renovation that he was to guard. The dog had a strange quirk in that he would not go through a tight spot. A door had to be wide open or he would balk. (I guess he had been caught by a spring door when he was younger.) There was a section of the building with posh furniture and carpet. Access to the section was through an opening in a planter wall. I didn't want the dog to go into that section, so I placed a "THIS SECTION CLOSED" sign in the middle of the opening, and said "See that?.... The dog looked, and we walked on. A workman shouted "Hey are you saying that dog can read?" I replied "Well, watch.", and I squeezed past the sign but the dog who had been at my side in perfect obedience, planted four feet and wouldn't go through, no matter how much I shouted and tugged. I moved the sign (now there was lots of room), and the dog walked through as though nothing was wrong. Each time the sign was in the doorway, the dog couldn't be forced through; remove it and he would trot on through. Somewhere there is a work crew that believes my dog can read.

**Bellingham Bay  
Pet Nannies**



Full Service Pet-Sitting  
and Dog Walking

13 Years Professional Experience

Lisa Ahmari  
& Jenny Gallant

Call 734-PETS Today!



Whatcom Humane Society  
— CARED FOR SINCE 1970 —


Penny E. Cistaro  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR@WHATCOMHUMANE.ORG

3710 WILLIAMSON WAY  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226

PHONE (360) 733-2080 x 3026  
FAX (360) 733-4746

WWW.WHATCOMHUMANE.ORG



**CITY  
DOGS**

PROFESSIONAL • COMPASSIONATE  
GROOMING  
FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND

(360) 756-9515  
www.citydogsgrooming.com