

Support Off-leash Areas - Join Grateful Dogs!

Your membership is vital! Grateful Dogs is dedicated to monitoring and improving our off-leash areas. These areas are constantly subject to review and some face possible closure and/or are under continual pressure from opponents. Please join or renew your annual membership today!

Your support is critical to the success of the off-leash program. With the recent budget cuts in most state agencies - including the Bellingham Parks Department - Grateful Dogs will have to fund many of the improvements to off-leash areas ourselves.

Examples of what we would like to accomplish are:

- Fencing for the new upcoming Squalicum Beach off-leash area
Additional fencing for the Lake Padden off-leash park to create a "small dogs only" area
Improve muddy areas using an alternate surface materials such as gravel or wood chips.
Continue to lobby for more off-leash area locations

Grateful Dogs is a 501(c)(3) organization and will gladly accept your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation. You can also contribute through your workplace - if your company matches donations, designate Grateful Dogs! Our Federal ID # is 30-0317079.

Stay informed about upcoming Grateful Dog news, events and changes to the off-leash areas by joining Grateful Dogs and receiving the quarterly newsletter. Thank you for your support!

Grateful Dogs will be Meeting with the Mayor

Grateful Dogs will be meeting with the mayor late November or early December to discuss fencing off-leash sites and gaining access to the Bellingham City Parks' planning information.

We would like anyone interested in attending this meeting to email Anara at smilined@yahoo.com using "grateful dogs" in the subject line.

Thank you!

Dogs in Photography!

By K. Thomas Fix

The holidays are upon us once again and like many people, you probably have the relatives visiting, or are visiting your relatives. Then, of course, out comes the camera and everybody starts to pose, or tries to duck from the lens, as you snap off pictures. Later everyone sits around the living room to look over last year's pictures over cups of cocoa or eggnog. (Of course, with the recent proliferation of digital camera's I guess this could include our current pictures as well.) While gazing over these pictures, can you count how many pictures include the family dog? Now, I'm not asking how many pictures you took of your dog(s), but rather, how many pictures included the family hound?

Well, that is the theme of a current showing at Whatcom County Museum 'Gone to the Dogs'. While doing research through the archive of pictures stored by the museum Jeff Jewel the museum's photo historian realized that in many pictures they spotted, well, spot! Not the focus of these pictures, mind you, but just ambling through the photograph like maybe a passing cloud, or that stranger in the background making a funny face where everybody later asks "who is that guy?" Only we know these interlopers, because they are part of our family, they're the family dogs! In many of these photographs, they saw the familiar figure of a passing pooch. Now in several of the displays at the museum these dogs are the focus of the picture. Some of these pictures are from Vaudeville acts that were promoting their acts with dogs when they were passing through town and doing shows at the Mt. Baker Theatre. Others are unique examples of how important dogs were to

Polar Pups Party- scheduled Jan 21! Enjoy hot chocolate, coffee & snacks and spend quality, off-leash time with your pet after the holidays. Join us Saturday, January 21 between 10am - 12pm at the Lake Padden off-leash area. Watch for event flyers around the park and mark your calendars for this unique winter event!

their families as they were posed along side of their children in very professional (and most likely expensive at the time) family portraits. But many of these fascinating pictures were simply 'snapshots' where Fido was happily ambling into the frame just as the picture was struck and became part of our family and cultural history.

As you are now invariably thinking 'how many pictures of Prince' do we have?' I suggest you head down to the Whatcom County Museum and catch this most revealing example of how much our lives have been infiltrated by our most faithful friend. Not only are the pictures revealing of our cultural connection to our canines, but the captions are quite revealing too. The item that most caught my attention was how many times the neighborhood kids would set in motion a 'jail break' and free their beloved pals. (The song 'Who let the dogs out?' kept popping into my head as I read these captions!)

The Show has unfortunately ended at the Whatcom County Museum in the heart of Downtown. But there are plans to place these photos in the upcoming new facilities of the Whatcom County Humane Society. We are also in the works of getting a private showing of these pictures for our members at an upcoming Grateful Dogs event - so be sure to keep up your membership with us and stay in touch!

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Fast Facts about Canine Influenza

Permission to reprint from American Animal Hospital Association and healthypet.com

It seemed to appear without warning.

Suddenly, in late September, newspapers, television news programs and Internet websites were filled with stories about canine influenza, a new flu-like disease rumored to be sweeping the country.

But, how new is canine influenza, really? How did it develop? How is it spread? How do veterinarians treat it? And, are there a few, common sense precautions that may lessen your pet's risk?

To answer your questions, Healthypet.com compiled the most current information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and researchers in the field. This is an emerging issue in which new developments occur very quickly, so be sure to check the Healthypet.com website for updates.

How did canine influenza develop?

Canine influenza appears to be related to an influenza strain that affects horses. At some point, the virus mutated and the new strain made the leap from horses to dogs.

Was the first outbreak in September?

No, canine influenza was diagnosed initially in 2004. Until this year, outbreaks seemed to be contained to greyhound racetracks and seemed to affect only racing dogs. According to a September 26, 2005, CDC media briefing, the first evidence of canine influenza in companion dogs was documented in spring 2005 when shelters, boarding facilities, humane societies and veterinarians submitted samples from dogs suspected of carrying the disease.

Is my dog at risk?

Yes. All dogs are at risk.

Canine influenza is a new disease for which there is currently no vaccine. All dogs are susceptible to infection, and no dogs are immune.

Is canine influenza fatal?

Usually not. Most dogs diagnosed with canine influenza experience a mild form of the disease. They usually suffer from a persistent cough that may last for as long as three weeks and may experience a yellowish nasal discharge that can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

Dogs that experience a stronger version of canine influenza frequently have a high fever and exhibit increased respiratory rates and other indications of pneumonia. Currently, antibiotics treat this form of the disease successfully in about 95 percent of the cases.


How is canine influenza spread?

At present, canine influenza appears to be an airborne disease, much like kennel cough (Bordetella bronchiseptica). Physical contact between dogs does not seem to be required.

Can I catch canine influenza from my dog?

To date, there are no documented cases of humans contracting canine influenza from dogs.





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BELLINGHAM OFF LEASH AREAS

- For a complete listing and directions visit our website www.gratefuldogs.org.
- **Arroyo Park:** All trails.
- **Lake Padden Park:** South on Samish Way, take the South entrance to the Park, go to the end of the road, parking is on the left.
- **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 as an off-leash area 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.