

Published Twice a Year

**Board Members**

**President (1 yr term)**  
Mollie Faulkner

**Accountant**  
Kelly Pederson

**President Elect**  
Sharon Bishop

**Treasurer**  
Marly Hogan

**Membership**  
Trish Lemon

**Newsletter**  
Jean Webster

**City Government Liason**  
Anara Thomas  
Coco Lomas  
Helen Rondestvedt

**Webmaster**  
BobbieRuth Langley

**Outreach & Equipment**  
Jenny Brighton

**Members at large:**  
Sheila Nickerson  
Gayle Larson  
Jason Friend  
Jay Perelman

**Membership Info:**

To change your address or for membership questions, please contact Trish at 360-734-0272 or email: [tjlemon@comcast.net](mailto:tjlemon@comcast.net)



# The Grateful Dogs Scoop

BELLINGHAM  
GRATEFUL DOGS OFF-LEASH ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228  
[www.gratefuldogs.org](http://www.gratefuldogs.org)

Spring 2009

## From the Doghouse

Hey, hey, hey, it's spring finally! It's so nice not to be sloshing around in mud any more. My paws have been wet and muddy all winter.

The terrible weather was very hard on heavily used dog exercise areas. The City provided several truckloads of hog fuel for Padden Dog Park, which the users spread, but it never seems to be enough.

Bloedel Donovan Park became so waterlogged from the constant rain that the Parks decided to close the lakeside in order to get some new seed in to re-establish the grass. It was closed to everyone for 6 weeks -- not just doggie folks. The grass is looking much better but the geese are back in force.

Our trees that were planted at Squalicum Creek Park in October are looking good. Most of them have buds; they probably liked all the rain. Zeke, Zoey and I have been over often to check on them.

**Mark your calendars for May 30th from 10am -12 noon.** We need lots of help to install "artificial irrigation" to keep the trees healthy during the dry months.

The system consists of quart size cartons probably three to a tree, buried just below the surface. It will not be anything like the hard work it was to get the trees planted. You will need to bring a penknife or a box cutter to cut the tops of the cartons. Parks will provide gloves and hori-horis. If you have a favorite small digging tool bring it along. It won't involve much digging since we do not want to damage the tree roots.

Invite your friends and neighbors to help, as we probably will not have the Boy Scouts this time.

See you then,  
Bark for Parks ~ Boule



**Boule**  
*President for the year*

## Liaison Report

*By Anara Thomas*

Nothing much to report. I'm on the mailing list for all the Greenways Committee meetings and public input meetings. I look for notices about changes in the parks that affect dogs.

The last public input meeting was about developing the Northridge Park area and I figured:

1. there may not be much ado about dogs off leash and
2. alot to do about pro-and con-development and I was right,

It was a heated, controversial meeting. The parks board presented a park plan with some parking and access roads. Neighbor response was resistance to traffic coming into the neighborhoods.

My impression is that the neighborhood wants a publicly funded park for only their neighborhood. Parks decided to leave trails and not develop that site at this time.

The latest change is the temporary limited dogs off-leashaccess at Bloedel Park, which is expected to end mid-May.

Until my next report, enjoy our off leash areas during this nice weather change.

Anara

## ARTIFICIAL IRRIGATION WORK PARTY

**Squalicum Creek Park  
Saturday, May 30  
10am - 12pm**

**Bring a pen knife  
& your favorite  
small digging tool!**

Listings are a service provided for businesses that join Grateful Dogs at the Business Level. Please contact Trish at 360-734-0272 or email [tjilemon@comcast.net](mailto:tjilemon@comcast.net) for more information.

**PET SITTERS & BOARDING**

**Field of Dreams Doggie Daycare**

Kerri & Doug Barnett  
916 E. McLeod Rd. Bellingham, WA 98226  
360-933-4838

**NW Kennels**

4796 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360) 384-6578

**Placid Pet**

*Pet sitting & daily dog walking*  
(360) 223-3825

**Ruff Day Doggie Daycare, LLC**

(360) 527-0682  
Ruff-Day@hotmail.com

**Southside Paws**

Judy Farrell  
P.O. Box 253, Bow, WA 98232  
360-766-7904

**PET SERVICES**

**Gone Doody Gone**

Andrea Rowe  
*Pet waste removal specialists!*  
479 1313 E Maple St., Ste #201  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 685-4244  
[www.gonedoodygone.com](http://www.gonedoodygone.com)

**City Dogs Grooming**

Lee Ann Kelly  
*Pet Grooming for all Breeds!*  
1337 Lincoln St. Ste. 1.  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
(360) 756-9515  
[www.citydogsgrooming.com](http://www.citydogsgrooming.com)

**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) 671-7445

**DOG LOVERS IN BUSINESSES**

**Bakerview Nursery**

945 E. Bakerview Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360) 676-0400

*Continued on page 5*

**The Protocol of Poop**

*By Helen Rondestvedt*

I'm not really sure when it became a "hot topic," only that the protocol of poop continues to plague dog owners. When did this whole "scoop your poop" phenomenon begin?

Growing up in the 60s, my mother and father spent plenty of time nagging me about my obligation. They didn't care how I accomplished the task.

"It's your dog. You begged us for her. Now, get out there and walk the damn thing!"

I never carried a plastic bag and nobody ever scolded me, or my little Sheltie, for doing its "business" in the wrong place. My parents concern was that this "business" wasn't left inside our overly clean house, or tidy backyard. But even then, I knew enough to be sneaky about the whole operation. Let's just say I treated each excursion into the neighborhood like a Mission Impossible task. Cue the theme music. I got to be pretty good at it, too. My Sheltie didn't always go along with the program, but, for the most part, we managed our clandestine affair by avoiding the nasty neighbors, and their evergreen lawns.

So, Rule Number 1 was: Don't Get Caught. That rule seems, even to this day, the one most likely to be broken. Just because no one sees the dirty deed, doesn't mean it hasn't happened. A good 50% of the time, the smell will give you away. Rule Number 2 is: Where it is, There Shall it Lay. I'm not talking about golf balls, either. Roughly translated, that means where the dog decides to poop has as much to do with your responsibility, as the fact that he pooped in the first place. Therefore, a poop made in the middle of a sidewalk will get you a lot more dirty looks than a poop discreetly made in the woods. This brings me to Rule Number 3: The Royal Flush (no pun intended).

You're holding all the cards, so to speak, when it comes to morality. We care. The dog doesn't. You have to live with your own conscience.

Do you scoop 100% of the time, when it's convenient; or, more than likely, when others are watching? I'm willing to bet most of us, myself included, fall into the later category. That's just human nature. Dogs have nothing to do with it.

I've added my own Rule Number 4: Size Matters. When a Pomeranian drops its little tootsie rolls, that's cute. Not so for a Great Dane. However, poop is poop. Dogs don't discriminate. Neither should we.

Ultimately, as a "responsible" dog owner, you have to live with your choices.

Here's my personal set of rules, based on a common sense middle of the road morality. One: pick up your dog's poop in your neighborhood. After all, I would care if someone else's dog leaves its presents on my lawn. Extend that courtesy to your neighbors. Two: try your best to pick up poop at your local dog park. It's tough enough getting the Parks Department to allow off-leash areas. Don't piss them off more. Three: pay it forward. When you come across someone else's poop, and the offending culprit is not nearby, do us all a favor and scoop the poop. Four: carry extra bags! I can't emphasize this enough. There's nothing worse than trying to be a "goody goody" and not having the proper tools.

Lastly, consider it a small price to pay for the love and companionship of your four legged friend.

Enough said.

## Our Story at Brigadoon

by Denise CoStanten

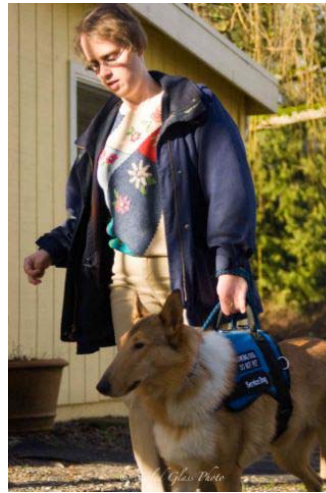


Brigadoon differs in many ways from other service dog agencies. We will train for a variety of disabilities, such as hearing or sight impaired, autism, seizures, balance, and others. We train a multiple breed of dogs, but primarily use Collies and Golden Retrievers. We offer home visits where the dog goes to stay with its person once they have been matched with a dog that is in advanced training; spread the team training time over months instead of condensing it into a week or two, and we incorporated the youth of our community to help accomplish some of these tasks. This gives the youth of our

community a chance to understand and help the part of their community with physical and developmental challenges.

We serve primarily Washington State, but have some clients in British Columbia, Canada, Oregon and California. We stay in touch and offer continued education with the recipients new service dog. We want to "Offer a helping paw" to as many children and adults as we can.

Brigadoon Youth & Service Dog Programs was started August 2004 to help fill the need of providing assistance dog to people (particularly children) with physical and/or developmental disabilities. These special canines offer 24/7 unconditional love....so important to many people who feel alone and are in pain.



## BUSINESS LISTINGS

### VETERINARIANS AND ANIMAL HOSPITALS

- **Maplewood Animal Hospital**
- David Rabkin, D.V.M.
- 2869 West Maplewood Avenue
- Bellingham, WA 98225
- Office: (360) 715-1430

## BELLINGHAM OFF LEASH AREAS

- For a complete listing and directions visit our website [www.gratefuldogs.org](http://www.gratefuldogs.org).
- **Arroyo Park:** The trails within Arroyo Park are off-leash; those outside the park are not. Be aware of bicycle traffic. Arroyo Park can be reached by following Chuckanut Dr. South take a left on Old Samish Hwy. just past the Chuckanut Bay Gallery.
- **Lake Padden Park:** Follow the signs along Samish Way to Lake Padden. The east entrance will lead you past the picnic areas and baseball fields. To the left is Bellingham's only fenced off leash area. There are two & a half acres of freedom for your dogs to run to their hearts content. Also a special fenced section for small dogs under 30 lbs. please follow the rules.
- **Whatcom Falls Park:** Last year the trails north of the bridge have been closed to off leash dogs after many wonderful years of use. Now the only segment of trail open is the Waterline Trail. Access is from Lakeway Dr. into the park past the water treatment plant or inside the main gate of the cemetery.
- **Sehome Hill Arboretum:** 165 acres of woodland overlooking the city. Located off the Bill McDonald Parkway at the intersection with 25th Street, across from the Washington Archives building. (The sign at the entrance is concealed.) Bear right up the hill for .8 of a mile. Open 6 AM to dusk. Parking available. On leash for the main trails, off leash for the secondary trails only. Bicycles and horses prohibited. No dispenser, garbage cans in the parking area.
- **Little Squalicum Park:** Located at the mouth of Little Squalicum Creek, access is from Marine drive parking area. All trails are off leash owned by the City and County. The beach is owned by the Port so watch for signs. The stream is currently undergoing tests for contamination. We share this area with bird watchers, the homeless and partygoers. Be respectful, careful and watch for broken glass.

### AHS Plans to Reinstate Spay/ Neuter Voucher Program in Summer 2009

The Alternative Humane Society voted to suspend its spay/neuter assistance program in December of 2008 due to a funding crunch.

This was a very difficult decision for the AHS's Board, since so many people in the community depend on financial assistance to be able to spay and neuter their pets. With "kitten and puppy season" upon us, spaying and neutering are more important than ever.

AHS has remained committed to helping people facilitate low cost spay/neuter. AHS has been encouraging the public to call the message line at 671-7445 and request information. Volunteers return each call and direct people toward other low cost spay/neuter options, including the wonderful "Spay Station" which is now serving Whatcom County 3 and sometimes 4 days a week. (More information at <http://www.wesnip.org>)

Other low cost spay/neuter options include N.O.A.H. in Stanwood, and Cedardale Neuter & Vaccination Clinic in Mt. Vernon.

AHS expects to be able to reinstate their voucher program this summer as donations and fundraising efforts increase.

Every donation makes a difference, so please consider supporting this important effort. Together, we can help Whatcom County become a community where no healthy animals are euthanized.

"Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events.

The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard."

--Dave Barry

### NEUTER IS CUTER DAY SETS GUINNESS RECORD

by Frank & Chris Haulgren

All events require a certain number of "Thank You" cards to be sent out afterwards. But surely a measure of its success is in how happy people are while writing them. We were all pretty happy! Our first big event (a twist on SPAY DAY USA) brought together 50 volunteers and a doggie day care facility in an unusual collaboration: a one-day male cat neuter-athon! And it turns out no one has ever neutered as many male cats in one day as we did. In the end: 149 surgeries!

Two tents divided up the lines of owners, many with carriers stacked one upon another. Helping owner after owner and being told mostly to check the \$5.00 "Neuter Only" option we knew we were seeing pets and ferals who otherwise may never have had access to this service.

While check-in continued outside in the soft rain, inside the first neuterings commenced. From the beginning we ran into challenges, we adapted, we improvised and we helped one another. We snacked on coffee and donut holes (do not miss the symbolism here). We had our moments of panic but mostly we just worked doggedly at the task ahead and marveled at the level of organization Angi had orchestrated for us. Soon runners were making regular forays up the long steps to the warm recovery room, their carriers loaded with sleepy cargo. One happy diversion was having the Pasado's Safe Haven truck pull up with all the bags and cans of free pet food on board!

After a tour of the proceedings and a catered lunch, Kristin and Mike got down to some serious pet-food distribution. At first hesitant and a little uncertain, owners started stepping up and sorting through the options. We can't tell you how much this windfall was appreciated by everyone at the event! The generous contribution to pets and their humans helped lift our collective spirit and kept up our energy levels during the long after-

noon as the physical reality of 149 surgeries started to make itself felt.

Eventually walkie-talkies would quit, medications would not be ready, owners would come back too soon, too late or not at all (eventually straightened out). These are things that can be addressed next year. What we DO hope we will duplicate is the sense of community involvement and the hands-on helping of pets and their owners who commented all day long about how much they appreciated this unusual event (the owners, not the cats.)

We signed all the thank you cards at our meeting last night, the biggest one of course going to Pasado's, whose groundwork still informs many of our daily experiences.

All the "Snips" wish to say THANK YOU for our beautiful Spay Station and the opportunity to dream big and deliver as only a program as special as this one can!

### More Opportunities to Meet Adoptable Dogs

by Naomi, AHS Vice President



The Alternative Humane Society is now showing adoptable dogs at Petco in Bellingham. For over a year, AHS has been holding monthly "Adopt-a-thons" on the second Sunday of every month at Ruff Day Doggie Daycare. With the addition of Petco showing times, AHS adoptable dogs are now available for meet-and-greets on three weekends of each month!

Petco has been very supportive of AHS by allowing the organization to set up an informational table and bring one or two adoptable dogs into the store for several hours. Petco is also raising money for AHS with ongoing in-store fundraisers.

Dogs are shown at Petco on the first and third weekends of every month from 11am-2pm. **Upcoming dates are May 16 & 17, June 6 & 7, and June 20 & 21.**

For more information about AHS's current adoptable dogs, as well as our other programs, visit us online at [www.alternativehumanesociety.org](http://www.alternativehumanesociety.org).

## Success Tips for Dog Socializing

By Barb Kennedy

Behavioral Counselor and Rehabilitation Specialist at Whatcom Dog Rehabilitation  
(360) 739-8502  
www.whatcomdogrehab.com  
“Behavioral Solutions That Work!”

### Do -

- Honor and respect the fact that your dog has a need for and a right to his personal space.
- Socialize your dog so that he's wise to the ways of other dogs.
- Accept the unexplained disliking that your dog may have for another dog.
- Build your dog's tolerance levels through ongoing, fun experiences with others.
- Educate yourself regarding normal and appropriate canine body language and behavior.
- Practice social skills and a reliable recall before allowing your dog off leash around others.
- Plan ahead and practice to stay calm & in control with challenging situations.
- Insist your dog behave politely, and not bark at or be rude to others.
- Stay tuned into your dog when you're together and minimize distractions (cell phone, etc.). Observe his eye contact, body language and state of mind and redirect him to sit, lie down, etc. if necessary.
- Always use calm leadership to influence behavior, especially during stressful situations. Avoid being highly verbal or sounding high-pitched, as this unintentionally triggers arousal in other dogs.

### Don't -

- Bring an intolerant, under-socialized, fearful or unstable dog around young or rude dogs, or in a situation he's unprepared to handle.
- Punish your dog for telling another dog to get out of his face.
- Allow your dog to get over excited or rude – help him find an appropriate behavior, take him for a walk or remove him from the situation. Overexcited behavior triggers arousal in other dogs, which can lead to inappropriate reactions.
- Allow other people to allow their dogs to be rude to your dog. A leader protects his pack.
- Ignore your dog or what he's trying to tell you
- Turn an excited or rude puppy loose with an intolerant adult or punish an adult dog for reminding a puppy to mind his manners.
- Take it personally if your dog suddenly forgets his manners or reacts. Stay calm, and give him an activity he can succeed at (sit, lie down, etc.) and be rewarded for.
- Expect your dog to feel relaxed and friendly if you're not. Dogs pick up on anxiety, tension, impatience, etc., and react accordingly. If needed, consider practicing simple relaxation techniques like deep breathing, EFT, etc., prior to socializing with your dog.
- Make excuses if your dog displays rude behavior. Be honest, talk to others, learn about solutions, or seek the help of a professional.

### DOG LOVERS IN BUSINESSES

• **Josh Shiflet, Realtor**  
• Remax Lakeway  
• 913 Lakeway Dr.  
• Bellingham, WA 98229  
• Phone: (360) 739-1327  
• Email: josh@sellwithjosh.com  
• www.sellwithjosh.com

• **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

• **Kelly Pederson, Accountant**  
• 2536 Queen St. #3  
• Bellingham, WA 98226  
• 360-752-1533  
• kellypederson@yahoo.com

• **Masters Massage Therapy, LMP**  
• **Becky Masters**  
• *Massage for Every Body!*  
• 1111 W. Holly Street, Ste. F  
• Bellingham, WA 98225  
• (360) 671-2713

• **Ross Architecture NW**  
• Bob Ross  
• 115 Underhill Rd.  
• Bellingham, WA 98225  
• (360) 676-4443

• **Thomas Consulting Services**  
• **George Thomas**  
• *Nonprofit Organizational Development*  
• (360) 671-4193  
• George@sector3works.com

• **Webster Illustration, Marketing & Graphic Design, Jean Webster**  
• 137 33rd Street  
• Bellingham, WA 98225  
• (360) 778-3211  
• Jean@WebsterGraphics.com

### VETERINARIANS & ANIMAL HEALTH

• **Maplewood Animal Hospital**  
• David Rabkin, D.V.M.  
• 2869 West Maplewood Avenue  
• Bellingham, WA 98225  
• Office: (360) 715-1430

• **Whatcom Dog Rehabilitation**  
• Barb Kennedy  
• *Behavioral Counselor and Rehabilitation Specialist*  
• 108 S 7th St  
• Lynden, WA 98264  
• (360) 739-8502

# Membership Application

www.gratefuldogs.org

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOGS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

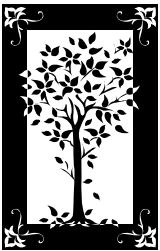
If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email, please check box

(Circle one) Type of membership: New Renew | (Circle one) FAMILY \$15 INDIVIDUAL \$10 BUSINESS SPONSOR \$40

Volunteer Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check to the treasurer at:  
Grateful Dogs; PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228

Federal ID#30-0317079



## Support Off-leash Areas - Join Grateful Dogs Today!

Please join Grateful Dogs or renew your annual membership. 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. Your membership dollars help us fund the fight to keep Bellingham off-leash areas open and accessible to the public.

**Thank you for your continued support. Renew today!**

### Upcoming Poop Scoop Party Dates...

<p><b>Post Point</b>  <i>First <u>Saturday</u> of the month:</i>  <i>9am</i>  <b>Saturday, June 6</b>  <b>DATE CHANGE: now...7/11</b>  <b>Saturday, August 7</b></p>	<p><b>Bloedel Donovan:</b>  <i>First <u>Saturday</u> of the month:</i>  <i>9am</i>  <b>Saturday, June 6</b>  <b>DATE CHANGE: now...7/11</b>  <b>Saturday, August 7</b></p>	<p><b>Lake Padden</b>  <i>Every Friday morning:</i>  <i>9am</i></p>	<p><b>Little Squaticum Beach</b>  <i>Fourth <u>Sunday</u> of the month:</i>  <i>2pm</i>  <b>Sunday, June 28</b>  <b>Sunday, July 26</b>  <b>Saturday, August 23</b></p>
--	--	---	---



**GRATEFUL DOGS**  
**OFF LEASH ASSOCIATION**  
**Bellingham**  
PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228

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

*Spring has Sprung!*

#### Inside this issue:

- ✓ Nueter is Cuter sets RECORD!
- ✓ Poop Protocol
- ✓ DOs and DON'Ts of Dog Behavior
- ✓ Brigadoons Story