



The Grateful Dogs Scoop

Bellingham & Blaine
Grateful Dogs Off Leash Association
www.gratefuldogs.org

Spring 2011

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To change your address or for membership questions, please contact Jenny at jenny@thulinlaw.com
We NEED your updated Email addressess!

From the Doghouse

Dear Grateful Dogs and their owners,

It's been a long winter which has included lots of struggles for those of us who love to take our dogs to off leash areas.

Mark Your Calendars for local Dog Events

Paws & Claws
Sunday, July 31st
Bloedel Donovan Park
Bellingham, WA

Dog Days of Summer
10k Run/Fun Run,
Family Walk & Festival
Sunday, August 28th
Lake Padden Park
Bellingham, WA

The Waterline Trail parking lot at Bayview Cemetery was removed and the new parking lot is a challenge, having to walk on the road to the trail and then, having it be quite some time before the off leash area is reached. As some of you know there is no garbage can, so if you can...bring an extra bag and take care to clean up on your way out...maybe even what others leave behind.

Our group at Bloedel Donovan Park has been moved to the field near the locomotive. The group kept it up despite the mud and

lack of beach. They discovered that a dip in the lake near the boat launch was a big help toward the end of the walk....

The good news is that we should be able to return to the beach area in mid- June for limited hours and Bellingham City Parks is continuing to listen to us and hopefully work on a solution that would satisfy the Dept. of Ecology and let us stay at our lovely beach at Bloedel Donovan.

Don't miss the Dog's Breakfast on Saturday May 14th at the small pavilion at Bloedel Donovan. It begins at 8:30am and will have treats for dogs and owners alike, with lots of fun planned for all. \$5 helps raise money for bags at Bloedel Donovan Park.

Please take some time to e-mail the administration at Bellingham City Parks. They are willing to listen to us and to work with Grateful Dogs to provide off leash areas throughout the city. They need to hear from all of us that our favorite activity is a valid and valuable form of recreation and providing quality off leash areas is good for our community in many ways.

Email addresses:

Leslie Bryson, Interim Parks Director,
LBryson@cob.org

Marvin Harris, Operations Manager,
MHarris@cob.org

Dick Henry, Recreation Manager,
RHenry@cob.org

Have a wonderful spring and summer - most of all thanks to all of you who contribute your time, money and effort to help our organization!

DANA HANKS
President and Owner of Truffles,
Waffles and Biscuit

Listings are a service provided for businesses that join Grateful Dogs at the Business Level. Please contact Jenny at jenny@thulinlaw.com for more information.

PET SITTERS & BOARDING

Big Dog Sleepover
Audriana Ocean
556 Sudden Valley
Bellingham | 360-778-1152

The Placid Pet
Pet sitting & daily dog walking
(360) 223-3825
www.placidpets.com

Ruff Day Doggie Daycare, LLC
2123 Lincoln Street
Bellingham
(360) 527-0682

PET SERVICES

Doo Bandits
Pet waste clean-up service in Bellingham and most of Whatcom County
Suzanne/Dennis Pate
Bellingham | (360) 778-1291
www.doobandits.com

Ridgeview Dog Training
Dog Training and Pet Sitting
Linda Larkin
Bellingham | (360) 595-2131
www.ridgeviewpetservices.com

PET SHELTERS/ RESCUE

Whatcom Humane Society
3710 Williamson Way
Bellingham | (360) 733-2080

Alternative Humane Society
Of Whatcom County
PO Box 2321, Bellingham
(360) 671-7445

DOG LOVERS IN BUSINESSES

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

Ross Architecture NW
Bob Ross
115 Underhill Rd.
Bellingham | (360) 676-4443

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

Standford Dosimetry, LLC
Neill Standford
1204 Raymond St.
Bellingham | (360) 527-2627
neillstandford@gmail.com

Handy Man Services
Kevin Faulkner
110 S. Forest Street
Bellingham | (360)927-6874
l.kevin.faulkner@gmail.com

VETERINARIANS & ANIMAL HEALTH

Maplewood Animal Hospital
David Rabkin, D.V.M.
2869 West Maplewood Ave.
Bellingham | (360) 715-1430

Whatcom Dog Rehabilitation
Barb Kennedy
Behavioral Counselor & Rehabilitation Specialist
108 S 7th St Lynden
(360) 739-8502

7 STEPS TO A HAPPIER PET

The Humane Society of the United States, in its constant battle to end animal neglect, cruelty & abuse, encourages all of its members to take the following actions in support of animals.

1. Make sure your pet wears an identification tag to enable him to be returned to you if lost.
2. To prevent animal behavioral problems, make sure you enroll your new puppy or dog in behavioral training classes, & visit www.petsforlife.org
3. Animal behavioral problems can be health related. Make sure your pet has a complete medical exam by a veterinarian at least once a year.
4. Prepare for disasters. Make sure you have a plan for your pet in case of a hurricane, tornado, fire, or flood.
5. Plan for your pet's future in case something happens to you and visit www.humanesociety.org/petsinwills for more information.
6. Learn how to avoid dog bites, & how to prevent your dog from biting, by going to www.humanesociety.org/nodogbites
7. Have a heart, be smart & make sure your pet is spayed or neutered.

Taken from the Humane Society Website | <http://www.humanesociety.org/>

Our Best Friends Remembered in the Name of Grateful Dogs

Three wonderful dogs passed on to the great Bloedel Donovan Park in the sky, with endless green grass that never wears out and crystal clear lake water to drink and swim in.

In their names money was donated to Grateful Dogs organization to help keep this park available for off-leash recreation.

Abe 17yrs Cocker Spaniel

Tashi 14yrs Mixed Breed

Boule 13yrs Standard Poodle



These friends can never be replaced but they will always be remembered.

Dog Parks: Are They For Every Dog?

by Jennifer Brighton

I am a double-dog mom of two pit bull mixes. I am owned by Inca “Stinka” and Domino aka “Dumbino” or “Dom-i-NO-NO!”. I attend weekly agility classes and Inca is a Delta Society registered Pet Partners therapy dog. I’ve worked with professional Certified Pet Dog Trainers and I follow breed legislation and dog training issues closely. I’ve also spent countless hours at local dog parks. As an involved member of the Grateful Dogs Off-Leash Association, I have been asked to offer some thoughts on dog behavior related to dog parks.

First, I would like to encourage owners to research your dog’s particular traits if its breed is known, and to familiarize yourself with canine behavior in general. A great resource is Cheryl Smith’s book *Visiting the Dog Park*. She discusses which dogs are appropriate, presents scenarios of what can happen and how to respond to problems, and how to predict and forestall problems before they arise. Another resource is *Off-Leash Dog Play: A Complete Guide to Safety and Fun* by Robin Bennett and Susan Briggs, Certified Pet Dog Trainers. I have not read this book, but it gets 5 of 5 stars from reviewers. One of my favorite training sites that covers almost any dog issue you can imagine is Dr. Ian Dunbar’s “Dog Star Daily” (dogstardaily.com). Dr. Dunbar is an internationally renowned veterinarian and animal behaviorist and started the Certified Pet Dog Trainer program. A bevy of positive trainers blog on the site about all subjects dog and users are encouraged to ask questions and participate in the topics. One of the topics last year was a heated debate about dog parks.

Enjoyment of dog parks and off-leash areas relies on the main component of owner responsibility. Dogs are dogs and will act like dogs. Despite what most of us want to believe, for the most part they do not have consciences and act on instinct or respond to their own comfort levels and/or fear. Other dogs’ comfort levels are not their concern. Therefore, it’s up to us to determine whether or not our dog should attend a dog park or off-leash area. Some questions to ask: Is my dog socialized with other dogs? Does it get stressed when around a large number of dogs versus one or two? How

old is my dog? Is my dog too submissive? Is my dog too excitable and/or aggressive? Is my dog food, ball or toy aggressive? Is my dog good with all sizes of dogs or better with dogs its own size? Does my dog have any health issues that are contagious? Does my dog have a disability that could harm it if hurt by running dogs? Is my dog spayed or neutered?

These are just a few questions to consider. If you do not have basic control of your dog or do not know how your dog will react to strange dogs or people, a dog park is not the place to learn. Many trainers discourage taking a puppy to a dog park. Their preference is that you join a structured puppy play group, enroll your dog or puppy in dog daycare, or find two or three dogs that your dog gets along with well and arrange play time at a safe location. Once you are sure of your dog’s comfort level, the next step might be to try the dog park.

Trainers point out that if your dog or puppy is so submissive that other dogs tend to pick on it, you are not doing your dog a favor by taking it to the dog park. I learned through the Delta Society the acronym “YAYABA”: You Are Your Animal’s (dog’s) Best Advocate. While owners want to blame the dogs that are picking on their submissive pet, the question really is whether the dog park is the best place for their submissive dog or puppy. Does your puppy benefit from being pummeled or frightened? A puppy or unsocialized adult dog that has a bad experience at the dog park can be emotionally marred for life. Bad experiences at the dog park can result in a generally fearful dog which is a problem in many settings, long into the future.

Dogs chase and play dominance games. Think of your submissive dog from the regular attendee dogs’ perspective: A new puppy or adult dog arrives at the park and is approached by a group of dogs. It is frightened and squeals and runs. In the dog world, this sounds like a great opportunity for some fun! Let’s make that dog squeal some more, just like the squeaky toy at home! All the better if it runs in the other direction so we can chase it! How many of us have witnessed this? I had to start leashing my female dog at the park at times when she went through her teenage stage. Every time a puppy entered the park, it became a toy: she wanted to stalk

Dog Parks...cont. from page 3

and roll it. If the puppy was bold and jumped up to play, they had a great time; if the puppy was submissive she wanted to make it squeal all the more by poking it with her nose. I consulted with a trainer who informed me that is fairly normal behavior for a female dog and that she should outgrow it once she matured. She did. I was also told (scolded) that hers was not appropriate dog park behavior. This is a perfect example of where owner responsibility comes in. The dog park is not a place to chat on your cell phone or spend more time visiting with other owners than observing your dog at play. Even the best dog can have a personality change when around too much stimulation (i.e. pack mentality).

Basic understanding of acceptable dog behavior is imperative. Two or three dogs may be playing rough and tumble, with lots of growling and showing of teeth. This does not mean those dogs are being aggressive with each other or will turn on another dog or humans. My trainer recently told me that the louder dogs play and the more they move their bodies around, the less aggressive they are. An aggressive dog is one who silently goes for the kill with "no apparent warning" (although an experienced dog owner or trainer/behaviorist would have seen the signals).

The common mantra of trainers is: when observing dog play, turn off the sound and watch only the body language. Is it a give and take/back and forth sort of play? Is one dog trying to escape rather than participate? Do the dogs know each other? Does it appear that a number of dogs are picking on only one dog? Does the dog that might appear submissive or more tentative keep going back for more? If so, and if the owners agree, then let the dogs play, with constant supervision.

I encourage owners to remember that we are in control and it is our responsibility, for public safety and the safety of other dogs, to educate ourselves. Study canine behavior and study your dog. Familiarize yourself with your dog's body language to determine if he or she is enjoying the dog park. Stressor signals include a tucked tail, raising the hackles, lip licking, yawning, rolling over into a submissive position, what is called "whale eye," when the whites are showing, and lifting the lip in a growl at approaching dogs.

Continued on page 7

IN MEMORY

Reesha

October 1, 1998 ~ April 18, 2010

Little yellow, feisty sheba-husky mix has joined her lifetime friend, Sunny. She was a fierce supporter of off leash areas. Her favorite past time was retrieving tennis balls and being a companion to Sunny.

George and Anara Thomas

Low Cost Spay & Neuter Options

Bellingham's local SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) has provided service to hundreds of low income family pets.

Applications for SNAP are available at both shelters and online at www.whatcomhumane.org

Also, WeSNIP (Whatcom Education Spay & Neuter Impact Program) has a mobile spay/neuter unit that travels throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties.

We SNip APRIL CALENDAR of EVENTS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

CALL IN ADVANCE

360-733-6549

Monday thru Thursday,
10am - 2pm ONLY

Wednesday, 4/20 & Thursday, 4/21 - 10am and 2pm

BELLINGHAM - PETCO - ([Map](#))

189 East Bakerview Road, Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 715-3785

Wednesday, 4/27 & Thursday, 4/28 - 10am and 2pm

BLAINE - Toad's Texaco Express - ([Map](#))

4485 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd., Blaine, WA, 98230
(360) 371-5938

Contact: Katy James | Whatcom Humane Society
(360) 733-2080 ext.3014 | edasst@whatcomhumane.org

Bloedel Park Update, Spring 2011

Helen Rondestvedt and Anara Thomas met with interim Parks Department Director Leslie Bryson and Operations Manager, Marvin Harris, on March 30, 2011.

There is good news and bad news. First, the good news. YES! Bloedel will reopen to dogs off leash mid-June to the end of September with limited daily hours. We'll have access to the "good side" of the park.



We will also be able to host our Dog's Breakfast in the small building and have dogs off leash outside adjacent to the building (but not access the whole park). Good for one day only, May 14th, 8:30-11 am.

The Parks Department is now required to install Dogipot stations in sensitive wetland areas.

Now the bad news. We have updated you in the past about DOE mandates to Public Works to allow no pollution to storm waters and especially Lake Whatcom. The newer, more restrictive standards are set by the Lake Whatcom Reservoir ordinance that allow for no soil disturbance October-June 1st. This means no dogs disturbing the fragile soil adjacent to the lake including no park maintenance (no tools to the soil). Leslie and Marvin offered the field across the parking lot as the Winter off leash site, allowing for water access to rinse off dogs at the boat launch. Because of this new restrictive

ordinance around the lake, we discussed other possible sites.

Helen proposed a small grassy field at Whatcom Falls Park, off Electric through the Birch St. entrance; between basket ball court and Jehovah's Witness Church fence. There is a big toy for children, 2 trash cans, natural hedging on 2 sides, looks like more green hedging could be added to the other sides and installing a Dogipot station.

This site would be the Winter alternative to Bloedel. They were open to exploring that. Squalicum Creek Park off leash area was discussed as a possible site to "fast track" fencing before construction of the next park phase. They will explore how to finance that with grant money or include fencing as part of another project all in the hope to alleviate Bloedel.

Leslie and Marvin suggested that our group work with another church based community volunteer group called The Season of Service Church Group. I think they are working with Rae Edwards, the Parks volunteer coordinator. We'll see what kind of

partnership we can develop.

Caveat: The Humane Society has offered to "police" park areas that are "problems" (mostly based on calls of complaints the Parks Department receives).

So it looks like ordinances will be enforced.
Your devoted public relations dog,

--REESHA AND JONAH

**An Extra Big Thank You
to Angela Lenz of Tails a Wagging,
who raised all the money to fence
the small dog area at
Lake Padden off leash Park.**

Celebrate with Grateful Dogs this summer

Below is a summary of some of the fun activities we will be participating in this year.

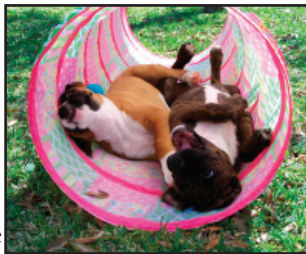


The Grateful Dogs will be at the Placid Pet Booth - come over and say hi, see our new brochures, great t-shirts, buttons renew your yearly membership.

Paws & Claws - July 31st
The Paws and Claws Expo is the Alternative Humane Society's annual

pet extravaganza! This year's Expo will be **Sunday, July 31, 2011 from 11am-4pm** at Bloedel Donovan Park in Bellingham, WA. The Paws and Claws Expo includes a fun run/walk, games and contests, demonstrations, a silent auction, and food and merchandise vendors.

Dog Days of Summer - August 28th
10 k Run / Fun Run / Family Walk & Festival!
Sunday, August 28th
Lake Padden Park,
Bellingham, WA



A day of fun for dogs and their people and all animal lovers alike. Pet themed vendors, doggie games & contests, rescue groups, kids activities, pet themed artists and photographers, food, music and more.

Four on the Floor

Positive Rewards Approach to Dog Training
by Angela Lenz from Tail-a-Waggin

Ahh, look at the cute baby puppy jumping up... ya' its cute now, but its going to get old real fast. Especially when that puppy becomes a 65 lbs adult dog.

Jumping up can make an otherwise great dog an obnoxious nuisance - a dog that some visitors and family member begin to avoid.

First, look at the situation from your dog's point of view. He is simply excited to see you. Dogs enjoy greeting face to face and it's not his fault we are 6 feet tall! Dogs are opportunistic and they simply want your attention. He quickly has figured out that jumping up is a great way to get it. You tell him to stop and push him off, saying his name a few times with a big "No".

Your dog thinks: "Yay for me! This works great! I jump up and you stop everything you are doing and put the focus on me!" Dogs don't care if the only attention they get is negative one, if that is all they are going to get, they'll take it just fine.

Dogs only do what works (hmmm, sounds familiar doesn't it)? As long as he continues to get attention (yes, even bad attention) for the behavior, he will continue to do it.

Dogs need to learn that a calm and relaxed dog gets far more attention than one who is jumping up (or barking or whining or generally being pushy)

Next time your dog jumps up on you, say nothing, fold your arms across your chest and turn your back to your dog. Don't look at him, don't talk to him, and don't acknowledge him in any way. He may move and come to your front, simply turn again- your back to the dog. At first he may think he needs to jump MORE to get your attention (remember it has worked VERY well for him up till now). Just be diligent, stay quiet and keep turning your back to him. As soon as he shows any signs of calm, such as keeping all four feet on the ground, quickly give him a treat and praise him. If your dog is trained to sit, have him do this before giving the treat and praising. You are simply teaching your dog what you NOW want him to do to get the reward HE wants.

Remember the Doggie Golden Rule: Dogs would rather be praised than punished but they would rather be punished than ignored!

Breaking bad habits takes time to overcome. Expect to repeat this exercise for some time... and expect it to possible get worse before it gets better. Be patient, be consistent and make sure everyone in the family is on the same page- doing the exact same thing.

Contact: Angela Lenz | Tails a Waggin,
360-733-PETS (7387)
<http://www.tails-a-wagging.com>
email info@tails-a-wagging.com

Dog Parks...cont. from page 4

Some owners believe that a dog that is loud and growly will make their dog loud and growly. My research indicates this is untrue. Each breed of dog is different and each dog within a breed is an individual. Some dogs are noisy; others play silently. Some dogs play very roughly; some dogs play very gently. Not all dogs like to play with each other. One of my favorite questions from a trainer is, "Do you like or want to be friends with everyone you meet?" Of course not. Yet, we often expect our dogs to. This is where owners come into play. Owners must determine who their dog enjoys playing with. I have a young male dog from Whatcom Humane Society. He is very friendly, but a rowdy playmate. I do not often take him to the dog park. He does better on trails where he can meet/play with dogs for a brief time and then we move on to the next adventure on the trail. On work days when I can't exercise them as much, my dogs are clients of Trail Dogs and Big Dog Sleepover, both of which are licensed and bonded.

The whole point of a dog park is for your dog to have fun and for you to enjoy watching your dog have fun. You don't want the other owners grabbing their dogs and running when they see you and your dog arrive. As much as we want to think of our dogs as perfect, we, as owners and caretakers, have to be honest with ourselves about what dog nature is, and which situation best suits our particular dogs. The dog park isn't always it, but for those dogs who are good candidates, it's a wonderful socialization and exercise tool.

And please remember: pick up the poop! The more complaints lodged against dog owners with the City of Bellingham, the greater our risk of losing our privileges.

written by Jennifer Brighton

Grateful Dogs Off-leash Association
Invites you to

A Dog's Breakfast



- **Games & Treats for the Dogs!**
- **Coffee, Bagels & Muffins**
- **Competitions & Games**
for Dogs & People, led by Gayle Larson
- **\$5.00 DONATION**
to purchase poop bags for Bloedel Donovan Park



Saturday, May 14th
8:30am – 10:00am
at **Bloedel Donovan Park**
in the Small Field House

www.GratefulDogs.org

Furbaby Rescue

Furbaby Rescue is a small rescue organization that takes on small breed dogs. We are 100% volunteer run and rely solely on adoptions and donations for the animals in our care.

All dogs, once accepted into Furbaby Rescue, are placed in a foster home. All are fully vaccinated, spayed/neutered, microchipped and given other medical care as needed (dental cleaning, nails clipped, etc.)

written by Angi Lenz
Furbaby Rescue Volunteer | <http://furbabyrescue.com>
email: elleny@comcast.net for more information



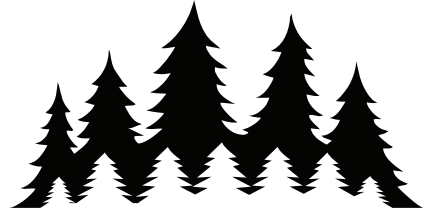
Support off-leash Areas - Join Grateful Dogs Today!

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 ~ Thank you!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Federal ID #30-0317079

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 *(Bellingham Memberships only)*



**GRATEFUL DOGS
OFF-LEASH ASSOCIATION**
Bellingham & Blaine
PO Box 31884, Bellingham, WA 98228
www.gratefuldogs.org

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

**Dogs are not our whole
life, but they make our
lives whole.**

-- Roger Caras