



# A Howlin' Good Time

## River Park Off-leash News

July

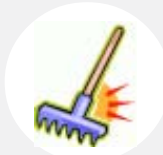


2010

### UPCOMING STUFF

#### Park Maintenance Effort August - TBA

Join us to relocate gravel from the grass to the trail. Just a few people raked gravel during our last clean-up. Unfortunately their efforts only put a dent in the damage done by The City last November when the trail was graded so the garbage trucks could travel along the north/south trail to empty garbage bins.



a note of

**Thanks**

**Forty seven enthusiastic dog owners** arrived to clean up garbage, cigarette butts and feces and rake gravel in River Park on Saturday, June 26.

Participants reported the park was quite clean. Thanks to everyone for your support.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends. If at any time you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

**Candice Lee**

287-1029 (home)

703-1671 (cell)

leesmale@telusplanet.net



### Calgary Herald Article Supports Off-leash Initiatives

Here are some of the highlights from a July 12 Calgary Herald article in support of off-leash use and spaces:

- Cambrian Heights park's removal of the fence without user consultation spurred powerful response from concerned dog owners
- 1000-name petition shows dog owners can be a potent political force
- Consideration to create more fully fenced, off-leash dog areas
- Balancing the needs/concerns of all
- Need to create well-planned, appealing off-leash spaces in all quadrants of city
- Recognized the benefits of off-leash
- City considering to limit number of dogs that can be brought to an off-leash park by dog-walking companies

- Encourage dog groups to maintain, clean and even help design and build attractive, functional dog parks, as well as fundraise, seek donations and sponsorships (mentioned the successful model at River Park/Sandy Beach)
- Create more well-planned dog parks to remove pressure on River Park and the Southland off-leash area
- Private dog parks should be encouraged on leased city property
- Privately run dog parks can be staffed to encourage proper use and feature dog-related amenities.

Nice to get overall favourable coverage plus recognition for the Friends of River Park's work with park users and City of Calgary representatives. Great job everyone!

### Classifieds for Your Consideration

#### Cat Margetts' Memorial

A tree has died in the area of the park dedicated to Cat Margetts. It's the middle one behind the two benches closest to the water fountain. When Cat's mother tried to arrange a replacement, a City of Calgary Parks representative told her that concerned citizens have to file a complaint in order to initiate the process. Could you please help her and call 3-1-1. Just say you use the park, noticed the dead tree and request a replacement.

#### Family Needs Help

Hugo and Colleen have **Fin**, a 10-year-old black lab with fear-aggression. They will be living in Vancouver for one more year before returning to Calgary. Hugo wrote:

*We desperately hope someone will love Fin to bits and help with one of three options:*

1. A good home (in Calgary or anywhere else) for about a year. Of course we would cover his expenses.
2. A good home (in Calgary or anywhere)

*on a permanent basis. (Gulp!)*

3. Someone who could move into and rent our House in Sunnyside, and also take care of Fin for the year. The house is a 3-bdrm 100-year old character home, 2 blocks from the C-train and the Bow River, and a 15-minute walk to Downtown. We would charge discounted rent in exchange for the responsibility of loving and caring for him.

If interested call Hugo at (604) 862-1223.

#### Dog Needs Home

A one-year-old Golden Retriever named **Rory** needs to find new digs. If interested contact Carla Bourelle at 403-290-6234.

#### Lost Keys

Sally lost her black Honda ignition key, navy blue remote and Co-op tag around River Park and area. She walked from 38 Avenue and 15 Street to the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant and around the tennis club. If found, please contact Sally at 403-554-0032 or sroenisch@shaw.ca.

# Capturing the Memories of Your Pet

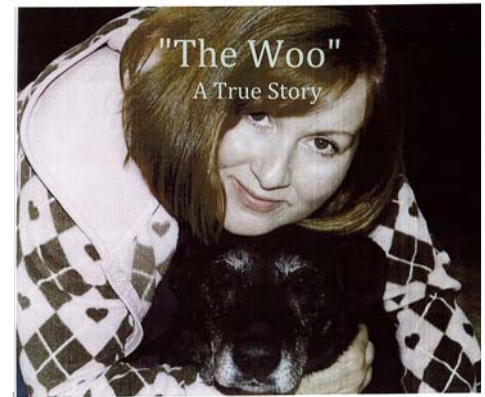
Most of our off-leash newsletter readers have experienced the loss of a furry family member. Each of us deals with grief in our own way, however long and whichever method that may be. After the various stages of grief, some of us yearn to have a special way to remember them.

Consider this. **Janice and Bert** are River Park dog owners who lost **Woo** last November. In memory of their special dog, they contracted a local writer to capture Woo's life story. They were thrilled with the experience. Here's their story in case any of our readers would like to do the same:

**Doris Ward** did a wonderful job of interpreting Woo's story and

*captured every aspect of her personality. I have received lots of positive feedback from everyone who has read it and now the book is on display in two of our animal hospitals for clients who have recently lost a pet and may wish to have their pet's story published.*

*Doris interviews the client to gain an understanding of the pet's personality and the facts surrounding the pet's life story, and then prepares the first draft. I was very much involved throughout the whole process from editing the story to providing photographs, choosing the layout and background colours, and finally selecting the photo for the front and back cover. It was a wonderful process that helped me to adjust to life*



*without our beloved Woo. This was the perfect way to capture our many precious memories.*

If you're interested in publishing your pet's story please contact Doris:

Doris Ward, MCS, APR  
Email: pawsinprint@shaw.ca  
Phone: 403-217-3966  
Web: www.pawsinprint.ca

## Caring for Your Pet For the Health of It - Gastrointestinal Upsets and Mosquito Repellents

### Gastrointestinal Upsets

Has your dog occasionally experienced vomiting and diarrhea? Whatever the primary cause, these symptoms indicate inflammation and abnormal motility of the gut.



Vomiting is actually a more serious symptom than diarrhea. Dehydration resulting from persistent vomiting or acute diarrhea may need to be treated with injectable fluids. Contact your veterinarian if vomiting has not stopped within 24 hours of starting treatment.

Here are some simple steps to help your dog:

#### Vomiting (with or without diarrhea)

1. Ice cubes to lick for the first two hours.
2. Next offer very small quantities of water (1 to 2 tbsp) every half-hour. Gradually increase the quantity offered (provided vomiting does not occur) until there is free access to water.
3. Bland foods may be started 24 hours after vomiting has stopped (6 to 12 hours with young puppies). MediCal canned or dry Gastro Diet is a highly recommended food. Offer a small quantity every 4 to 6 hours for 1 to 3 days or until the diarrhea is controlled. If your pet is on a special

diet, an alternative food may be recommended by your veterinarian.

4. Mix Gastro diet with usual dog food and feed every 6 to 8 hours for 1 to 2 days.

#### Diarrhea only

1. Free access to water. No solids for 24 hours (6 to 8 hours for puppies). MediCal canned Gastro Diet is highly recommended. If your dog is on a special diet, an alternative food can be recommended.
2. Offer a small quantity every 4 to 6 hours for 1 to 3 days or until the diarrhea is controlled.
3. Mix Gastro diet with usual dog food and feed every 6 to 8 hours for 1 to 2 days.
4. Return to regular diet.

Thanks to the **Marda Loop Veterinary Centre** for this information.

#### Mosquito Repellent Update

Some dogs manage to get through mosquito season without any problem, while others such as the short-haired dogs, struggle as much as we do. In the search for a safe repellent for my dogs, I bought a few products one year and decided that two worked best. I also asked newsletter readers for input. Check out the following products. Shoot me an email if you find another great product. Thanks to all for sharing with us.



Flea The Scene (177ml - approx. \$20)

This pleasant-smelling natural spray worked best for my dogs although it only lasts about 45 minutes before another application is required.



Ultrasield or Supersield (975ml - approx. \$33)

Primarily used as a bug repellent for horses (animals with extremely sensitive skin and coats), UFA's website says they're also safe for dogs. Nadina S and Sheila H have dogs and horses and both swear by these products.



**Caroleigh** suggests lavender oil. She uses it on herself and her dog. It can be found in grocery and drug stores and most health food suppliers. She rubs a few drops on her hands and then rubs it on her dog. A light application lasts a fair amount of time, but when the scent dissipates, it needs to be re-applied.

**Svend** uses **Summer Survivor**

and swears by it. Found in several health food stores, this natural pleasant-smelling product comes in a spray bottle. Just apply some on your hands and then rub on your dog. Re-apply as needed.

