

Pawprints



Dog Owners Gathering Society
of Vernon Township
(D.O.G.S. of Vernon)
www.DogsofVernon.org



Special Interest Articles:

- Planning a vacation? Tips for vacationing with your dog. Pg. 3
- What is positive dog training and why does it work so well? Pg. 4
- Learn how you can shop till you drop while helping us build our dog park. Pg. 5

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Welcome Vernon Township Dog Lovers

The DOGS of Vernon is pleased to announce that the Vernon Township Council has graciously offered their assistance and support in bringing to life our town's dog park. As many of you know, Dogs of Vernon, a volunteer group, has worked diligently over the past 2 1/2 years to make the dog park a reality. The actual building and maintaining of the park is still being done through our volunteer group and donations from the community. The park will always be open to the public and not just to Vernon residents.

We are pleased to announce, that with the Township's help, we are hopeful for an opening of the park in the fall of 2009.

DOGS of Vernon has had an eventful 2009 to

date. We celebrated Earthfest with DOGS Go Green. We offered information from eco-friendly dog supplies to cleaning supplies and ways to keep your family pet happier and healthier. For more information contact info@dogsofvernon.org for a dogs go green flyer.

We also offered a low cost micro chipping clinic at Vernon Vet during Earthfest.

We have been working with the township and the Board of Education to finalize the lease and paperwork for the park.

Our thanks to the many companies and volunteers that will be pivotal in making this park a reality. We couldn't do it without you.

Join us for our 3rd Annual Dog Wash and Nail Clipping at the

Vernon Township Firehouse on RT 515 from 2pm to 5pm on July 25, 2009. The following week on July 31st meet us at the McAfee Diner and Deli. Eat a delicious dinner at the Diner and Tony has offered to give us a donation from the proceeds that evening. Bon Appetite! August 29th we will be holding a yard sale at the parking lot of Mountain Creek South. Donations of items accepted! Stop by and see what treasures you can find to take home. DOGS of Vernon is a 501c3 Charity and all donations are tax deductible. For more info contact info@dogsofvernon.org or visit our website www.dogsofvernon.org.

Watch for our Grand Opening in fall of 2009.

*Barb Green
President*



Give your favorite pooch the Royal Treatment!

Upcoming Events

Yikes!!!!
According to Alison Deeb, President and Founder of MARdogs it can cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 just for the fence alone. So we've got a lot of fundraisers planned throughout the 2nd half of 2009.

DIRTY DOGS?

Our 3rd Annual Dog Wash and Nail Clipping is coming up fast. What a great way to socialize and give your favorite pooch the royal treatment! This year it will be on Saturday, July 25th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. so be sure to mark your calendars. For a shampoo only, the price is just \$10.00 and a nail clipping only is \$12.00. Or go for the works, shampoo and nail clipping for only \$20.00. Senior Discounts are available. For more info, or to volunteer at this event, contact

Jeanne@dogsofvernon.org.

Too hot to cook? You deserve a break too! Why not treat the whole family to dinner on

Friday, July 31st? Enjoy a wonderful, relaxing dinner at the McAfee Diner and Deli, located at 84 Route 94, Vernon, anytime that night between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. and **the McAfee Diner and Deli will donate a portion of their proceeds from the evening to DOGS of Vernon.** What better way to do your share to help build our first off leash dog park? PS...Don't forget the Doggy Bag!

Get Ready, DOGS of Vernon is having a garage sale. You won't want to miss this one! Donate items or come to see what bargains are to be had. We'll be there all day Saturday, August 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Mountain Creek South Parking Lot on Route 94. Donations may be dropped off between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. We are looking for donations of games and toys, garden tools, lamps, small furniture items (no appliances please!) used DVD's,

CD's and books in good condition. Other items needed include working electronics with cords, stuffed animals, knick knacks, dishes, glassware, collectable items, lawn equipment, curtains and linens and holiday items. Please no clothing.

If you wish to help out for this event or need to make other arrangements for your donations, please contact us as info@dogsofvernon.org

All proceeds from this event will go towards building an off-leash dog park in Vernon Township.

Check out our website at www.dogsofvernon.org for more information on any of these events and to learn about our future fundraising events coming this fall. A wine tasting event and mini golf outing to name a few! Also check our website for a schedule of our monthly meetings.



Head on down to the McAfee Diner and Deli and don't forget the doggy bag!

Summer Travel Tips with the Family Pet

By Jeanne Thompson

Summer means road trips with the family. The question is: do we take the family pet with us, or find a pet sitter or kennel. If you decide to travel with your pet the first thing you need to do is find a hotel that is pet friendly. There are many web sites that will provide a list of pet friendly Hotel chains. Here are some web sites I find helpful: <http://www.petswelcome.com>, <http://www.dogfriendly.com> and <http://www.bringfido.com>. You should always contact the hotel directly to find out any restrictions and fees.

Traveling by car with the family pet it is not as simple as packing the car and driving to your destination. Here are some tips to remember before hitting the road.

Identification

Make sure your pet has all the right tags imprinted with your

home address, as well as a temporary travel tag with your cell phone, destination phone number and any other relevant contact information. You might want to consider microchipping your pet in case your pet loses his collar. You also want to make sure you have your pet's vaccination records and be sure they are up to date.

Packing

Packing for your pets is just as important as packing for yourself. Remember to bring the necessities: leash, food, water, water bowl, dog bed, pick-up bags, crate, any medications and a favorite toy or two. Bring a bottle of water or two from home to give your pet a chance to adjust to new water

While Driving in Car

To keep your pet safe in

the car they should travel in a well-ventilated crate or attached to the seatbelt attached to a harness. This will protect them in case of sudden stops. You never want to leave your pet alone in a parked vehicle. When you stop at a rest stop someone should remain with the pet to walk it and keep it cool while the rest use the facility then you switch. Do not leave your pet alone when you get food for yourself. Remember you should offer your pet water very time you stop. (If your pet does not drink water try giving it to them once the whole family is back in the car and ready to continue your trip).

Finally load everyone in the car, take off and have a good time.



Road Warrior



Where's the 1st Tee?

"The best part about reward-based training is that the dogs enjoy the learning process and are not afraid to make mistakes."

Ask the Dog Trainer

Q: I hear a lot about "positive" dog training. How does this type of training work?

A: Have you ever noticed how often we tell our dog what NOT to do, but how infrequently we reinforce them for more appropriate behavior? Dogs are opportunists...they repeat behaviors that yield rewards. A reward is anything your dog considers valuable such as food, play, access to a favorite sniff spot or attention. The foundation of "positive" training involves adding rewards to increase desired behavior and removing rewards to decrease inappropriate behavior. Physical corrections are not used and the emphasis

is on what we like rather than the "bad" stuff. The best part about reward-based training is that the dogs enjoy the learning process and are not afraid to make mistakes. And if the dog is having fun, chances are the owner feels good about it too!

HINT OF THE MONTH: Next time your dog does something you like without being asked, be sure to give him (or her) a special reward! Like us, dogs repeat behaviors that "pay off."

If you have a question about dog training/behavior which you would like to see addressed in a future issue, please forward your question to itsyourdog@hotmail.com

The subject line should read "Ask the Trainer." For more information about our services, visit www.itsyourdog.com



Leslie Wiesner, CPDT is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and the owner of It's Your Dog, LLC, a full-service dog training facility in Hardyston, NJ. The information contained in this column is provided without the benefit of a behavioral consultation and is not intended to be a substitute for the services of a trainer, behaviorist or other qualified professional who may be appropriate in rendering advice specific to your pet's needs.

If Dogs were our Teachers.....



When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of

fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Delight in the simple joy

of a long walk.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by. All will be well.

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DOG PARK PROTOCOL

*Your dog's first visit to the dog park should be when it's not crowded.
 *Only bring a dog-friendly dog to the dog park
 *Never bring an ill dog or a dog with any contagious condition to the dog park
 *Make sure your dog is fully vaccinated before entering the park (especially for Bordetella otherwise known as "kennel cough").
 *Make sure your dog stays hydrated.
 *As soon as you are in the off leash area, remove your dog's leash so he doesn't feel

trapped.
 *Make sure your dog has a flat collar and tags at all times-even in the dog park.
 *Do not use a prong or choke collar on your dog when she is at the dog park
 *Do not bring snacks, bones or any treats with you, as it can start fights.
 *Make sure to pick up after your dog.
 *Keep a close eye on your dog's behavior and correct him when necessary.
 *Never leave your dog unattended at the dog park.
 *Do not bring puppies

under 4 months old or female dogs in heat to the dog park.
 *Don't bring your dog's favorite toys to the dog park, as he may become object possessive if another dog tries to take it.
 *Keep a canine first aid kit in your car in case of accidents and be aware of the closest Veterinary facility
 *Do not try to break up a dog fight by stepping in: use water or a loud noise like banging two water bottles together
 *Follow all the posted dog park rules.....they are not optional.



When at the dog park, follow all the posted rules.

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Now you can help build our dog park while you shop online!

Just go to www.igive.com and register, and then select DOGS of Vernon as your cause.

You'll have access to over 700 big name stores like Home Depot and Staples.

Every time you use **IGIVE** as your search engine, they will donate a penny a

search to DOGS of Vernon and a portion of each purchase you make from any of their 700+ stores will be donated to DOGS of Vernon if the purchase was made through the **IGIVE** website.

In addition, you'll save money with exclusive coupons and free shopping deals.

Hey, you can't beat that!

D.O.G.S. of Vernon
 PO Box 221
 Vernon, NJ 07426

PHONE:
 (201) 230-3973

E-MAIL:
info@dogsofvernon.org

Website:
www.dogsofvernon.org

Yahoo Groups
dogsofvernon@yahoo.com

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/people/Dogsof-Vernon/1255828303>