

Pawprints



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



Special Interest Articles:

- Learn how you can help us build the best dog park ever. Pg. 3
- How dog parks can help your dog. Pg. 4
- Learn how you can shop till you drop while helping us build our dog park. Pg. 5

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Hurray, We Finally Did It!



After four years of hard work, we finally passed the last hurdle and can begin building The Vernon Off-Leash Dog Park!

It's been a very long journey indeed and we would like to thank all of the people who stuck with us over the past four years and lent their support.

Special thanks to the following people who helped us get through this last hurdle with the County Planning Board.

We'd like to thank Wade Wander of Wander Ecological Consultants for doing

the required wetlands study. Also, many thanks to Bob Jordan Jr of RHJ Associates for the survey and maps he created for us once the wetlands areas were delineated.

A huge Thank You to Cory Stoner of Harold Pellow & Associates who generously donated many hours of his time to put together all of the maps and documents required by the County for the Site Plan application. Without your help Cory, there would never be a Vernon Dog Park!

We would also like to

thank all of the DOGS of Vernon members and the many other volunteers who have turned out in force to support our fundraisers. Thanks to all of you, we now have the funds we need to begin building the park this summer so that all of us can enjoy the Vernon Off Leash Dog Park with our best buddies.

Sincerely,

The DOGS of Vernon Board Members

Upcoming Events



Give your favorite pooch the Royal Treatment!

Proceeds from this and all over events listed here go towards building and maintaining the Vernon Off-Leash Dog Park.

5th Annual Dog Wash, Nail clipping and Micro Chipping

It's Summer time and the weather is fine, what a better time to wash away all the dirt and grime.

Give your pooch the royal treatment, shampoo and nail clipping.

Our 5th Annual Dog Wash, Nail Clipping and Micro chipping event will be held on Saturday, July 23rd (rain date- Saturday July 30th) from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Vernon Firehouse on Route 515 across from the A&P shopping mall in Vernon.

There will be plenty of volunteers on hand to pamper your pooch. Dr Michael Ramieri and his staff from Vernon Veterinary Hospital will be there once again to clip nails and microchip.

Prices are as follows:
 Dog wash – \$10.00
 Nail Clipping- \$13.00
 Micro chipping- \$35.00
 Combo Discounts are also available as well as multi dog discounts:
 Wash & Clipping- \$20.00
 All Three - \$50.00

Thousands of pets are lost in the USA each year. No matter how careful you may be, accidents can happen so please don't let your dog be one of the sad statistics who never finds his way back home.

While ID's are important, collars and tags can fall off. Micro chipping offers an additional way to help insure that your best friend returns home should he decided to go off on an adventure.

Remember, the microchips have to be ordered in advance so please call Pat @ 973-764-315 or emails us at info@dogsofvernon.org if you wish to have your

dog micro chipped. All orders must be placed by July 18th.

Cats (in their crates) are welcome for nail clipping and/or Microchipping.

Check out our website at www.dogsofvernon.org for more information on this event and to learn about our future fundraising events coming this fall.

We are planning our 2nd Annual Tricky Tray this November!

Also check the web for a schedule of our monthly meetings.



Please call us to order a microchip for your dog (or cat)



Wish List

By Jeanne Thompson

Now that we have started to build the Dog Park you may want to know how you can help make it a wonderful place for you and your dog. We have put together a wish list of items we would love to have in the park. If you could donate any of the items please sent us an

e-mail at info@dogsofvernon.org.

Wish List

- Benches
- Chairs
- Bear proof Garbage Cans
- Dog Waste pick up stations
- Dog bowls for water
- Pick up bags

- Garbage bags
- Pavilion for shade
- Agility equipment
- Trees to be planted to replace ones removed for the driveway.
- 3/4" quarry for Driveway
- Bulletin Board



Just picture it!

Dear Fellow Dogs Lovers;

There IS light at the end of the tunnel!

A group of Vernon residents met in 2007 to discuss an off leash dog park for the township. Looking back on that first meeting, it's hard to believe our dream is finally going to come true. We knew from the start that the Dog Park could not be built using taxpayer money so we endeavored to raise the funds through hard work, donations and fundraisers.

That first year was spent researching all that this would entail. We chose a name for the group, elected a board of directors and started putting out the word as to what we would be doing. That year we had our first dog wash fundraiser and none of us could have predicted we would have such a huge turnout. The response and support was overwhelming!

In 2008 we really got busy. We started major fundraising, and looking for an ideal site for the Dog Park. We even held a trial dog park during Vernon's Earthfest Celebration. The success of that trial park was more than we could have ever expected. It showed that the residents of Vernon wanted this park. The Township Councils have all been behind us and in late 2008, the Vernon Township Board of Education graciously offered the town a lease that

would allow us to use their property on RT 517.

In 2009 more major fundraising, we earned non-profit status and received our incorporation papers. We signed our lease with the township and we were on our way. Once the Township Land Use Board approved us, it was on to the county.

2010 was a year spent waiting for approvals from the County and completing more surveys for them to approve our request. Fundraising continued and many companies contacted us to assist when the time came for the building to start.

Fast forward to 2011 and we are set to go. Sussex County has approved the waiver we waited so long for. The off leash dog park of Vernon Township will be a reality this summer. Special thanks to Salerno Fence and Richard Cosh Excavation for their help in building this park. Thank you to all the Vernon Twp residents and the Vernon Township Councils that have supported us on this endeavor. Watch for our continuing fundraisers for the park and our grand opening of the Vernon Off Leash Dog Park.

Sincerely,
Barb Green
President
D.O.G.S of Vernon

Ask the Dog Trainer

“Many behavioral problems... are often linked to insufficient exercise (physical and mental) and boredom.”

Q: My dog needs more exercise and I'm considering taking him to a dog park. What do you think of off-leash parks?

A During a recent private consultation, I was asked by the clients, how pet owners provide adequate exercise for their dogs in this rural area. I was initially puzzled by their question, as I had always just assumed it would be harder for city folk to exercise Fido. I guess I was mistaken I came to find out that these former city dwellers had hired a pet sitter to walk their dog several city blocks to the neighborhood “dog run” and back again on a daily basis. The couple was perplexed as to how to provide a similar exercise regimen for their growing family, which now consists of two dogs. Sure, they could hire another pet sitter to handle daily walks, but walks in and of themselves are not cardiovascular enough for the high-energy pets that share our homes and that I see every day in my group classes and private lessons. In fact, many behavioral problems that pet owners encounter,

ranging from destructive chewing to hyperactivity to serious aggression issues, are often linked to insufficient exercise (physical and mental) and boredom. One of the first things I ask about at a behavior consult is the level of activity the dog enjoys on a daily basis. My advice often consists of “increase that amount by 50% and enjoy more than 50% in returns.” But this is often easier said than done and helping pet owners find creative solutions to this exercise dilemma can become a challenge.

Some of our local roads are simply not safe to walk and many local parks prohibit dogs altogether. Oftentimes, desperate dog owners go so far as to break the leash laws in parks that accept dogs, a practice which gives dogs bad press and jeopardizes future access by law abiding dog owners. Physically fencing a yard is not always a practical or affordable alternative for pet owners and electric fences are often ineffective (therefore dangerous) at keeping dogs in and other critters (like bear) out. Fortunately, a well-run dog park (and there are many models to follow)

can provide an outlet like no other - it's a shame they are so few and far between. Aside from the obvious exercise value of dog parks is the off-leash communication which dogs are able to enjoy. I see so many dogs that are “leash reactive”, that is they either misinterpret the body language of other leashed dogs and/or they feel vulnerable knowing their options are limited by the leash. Leash reactivity often results from fear (either innate, learned or both), compounded by owner error. An off-leash introduction between two canines, who so eloquently speak Body Language as their primary language, is the preferred alternative to an on-leash introduction. However, when two human/dog teams meet on the street, the humans are often guilty of inhibiting “normal” canine greetings simply by keeping the leashes tight. This often puts the dogs in what appears (if you speak dog) to be a confrontational posture – likewise when the nervous human tugs on the dog's leash and the “snarking” begins. Despite the advantages, dog parks are not without their concerns and are not appropriate for every dog. It is important to carefully consider your dog's age and temperament before



Ask the Dog Trainer cont.

visiting. For instance, puppies should be exposed to stable "bullet proof" adult dogs and other puppies during their informative early months rather than to the unknowns of the dog park. Socialization is not just about meeting other dogs and people – it is about ensuring that each experience is *positive and pleasant* and that the dog's reaction is non-fearful. Please contact me if you have any questions about introducing your dog to an off-leash

environment. It is not uncommon for me to escort nervous newcomers to their first visit.

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.



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

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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.

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Hey, you can't beat that!

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