

Pawprints

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

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Welcome Dog Lovers

Hello to all canines and their families. It's looking to be a great 2008 for DOGS of Vernon. I want to take this time to say thank you to all the volunteers and participants that have assisted DOGS with fundraisers and support through the last year. We wouldn't be where we are today without your help. Hopefully with everyone's help we will have an even better second year.

Everything seems to be going positive this year. We received our 501c3 non profit status, enabling us to increase our fund raising efforts. Our first dog walk of 2008 and was a great success with help from Vernon Township students in grades K-5. Dr. Michael Ramieri of Vernon Veterinary

Hospital held an informational First Aid Seminar for pet owners. We learned what to do in cases of emergency before we could get our friends to the Vet. On June 29th we participated in the Vernon Pet Adoption Day at Minerals Spa.

We have chosen a site for the park and are working with an engineer, the town manager and council for an equitable proposal. Hopefully this will be before the council in the near future. We hope to work closely with the Recreation Department as well. We participated in Earthfest 2008 and it was a huge success. Many people visited our booth for information and to show support for the off leash dog park in

Vernon Twp. Our on site one day Trial Dog Park was visited by more than 100 canines bringing their families in tow.

Our second annual Dog Wash/Nail Clipping is planned for July 26, 2008 at the Firehouse again. We are in the process of planning dog walks, a wine tasting event at a local winery and a micro chipping clinic.

We hope to see everyone at these events to make the first off leash dog park in Vernon Township a reality in the near future.

*Barb Green
President
D.O.G.S. of Vernon*



Pinup Pups



Let's admit it; we all think that our pup has what it takes to be a celebrity dog. Wouldn't you love to show everyone in Vernon just how special your little four legged friend really is?

There's still some room for a few more Vernon Pinup Pups to show their stuff on the pages of our 2009 DOGS of

Vernon calendar.

We'll also be featuring "Vernon Celebrity Dog" pictures in our newsletters as we introduce you to some of the truly wonderful dogs of Vernon Township.

If you have a great picture for our calendar or a special story to tell about your best friend, please email us at

pat@dogsofvernon.org
or
info@dogsofvernon.org

Be sure to include your dog's name, age and birthday.

All proceeds from the sale of the 2009 DOGS of Vernon Calendar will go towards establishing an off leash dog park in Vernon.

Earth Fest Celebration

"Local Vernon dogs and their owners showed up in force to experience the joys of an off leash dog park "



Even the dogs of Vernon took part in the annual Earth Fest celebration this year.

In honor of the occasion the Vernon Town Council granted us permission to have a one day trial dog park. Dogs and their owners showed up in mass to meet their fellow Vernon pups. Over 100 canines attended with their families to enjoy the freedom of running with other dogs off

leash.

It was a huge success and we want to thank everyone who participated.

In addition to the featured fenced in trial dog park, FEMA representatives gave demonstrations of search and rescue dogs at work. Greyhound Rescue held a meet and greet and the Vernon Animal Welfare League joined us to show support.

Information on Seeing Eye dogs and Therapy Dogs was available.

Lynn Nowak held a demonstration on agility, rally and obedience, and those who were interested had the opportunity to try out these fun activities with their own dogs!

For more information on Agility and how to determine if this fun sport is right for you and your best friend, turn to page 5.

DOGS in the Kitchen

Be on the look out for our **DOGS in the Kitchen** cook book to go on sale later this year.

Thanks to the talents of many of our would be chefs, DOGS of Vernon

has compiled a fabulous collection of recipes for both humans and Canines.

Our DOGS in the Kitchen Cook book is at the publishers now and will be ready for sale in

this fall.

All proceeds from the sale of the cook books will go towards establishing the first off-leash dog park in Vernon.

Ask the Trainer

By Leslie Wiesner, CPDT

Question:

I have a ten year old MinPin that pees when she gets mad at you. How do you stop this behavior? We put her in her in the kitchen (gated section) to punish her, but nothing seems to work. Thanks.
Michelle

Dear Michelle:

Try not to look at your dog's actions as revenge 😊. I hear many people describe their dog's destructive behavior or bathroom habits as "spiteful". However, the act of spite involves premeditation – a human, not a canine, ability. Instead, what we perceive as spite is the dog's reaction to (even) subtle changes in our body language. They are experts at reading us. A common scenario – owner arrives home to find a mess in the house. Owner reprimands the dog and assumes the dog knows why. Often, however, the mess was made eons ago (more than 3 seconds in a dog's life), and the dog never makes a connection between the mess and the owner's actions. Instead, the dog learns

that her owner is unpredictable and may come home upset. Upon arriving home next time, the dog exhibits behaviors such as cowering and hiding which her owner interprets as "guilt" (*human interpretation – dog knows she did wrong, but did it anyway out of spite*).

In order to find a solution to your problem, it's important to rule out several key culprits – medical, stress and inadequate potty training practices. If all is well on those fronts, then the problem may be behavioral (such as attention-seeking or marking). First and foremost, if your dog has not had a urine analysis within the past 6 months, please see your vet as soon as possible to rule out any underlying medical causes. This is especially *important* if this is a relatively new behavior (and because your dog is a senior). Has there been any recent life or routine changes in your household which could be stressing your dog? If so, there are a number of natural remedies on the market

which can help reduce anxiety during transitional periods. If your dog has never been 100% housebroken, please contact me for a refresher on potty training basics. Also, be sure you are cleaning up with a solution such as Natures Miracle or similar product – avoid ammonia-based solutions. Until these preliminary concerns are addressed, I would suggest refraining from the kitchen "time-outs". The fact that it hasn't been effective suggests that it's either not the appropriate choice of intervention or that it's not being properly executed. In either case, doing so may be adding to the problem or creating additional problems. The better option is to crate-train your dog until she is reliable in your home.

IT'S YOUR DOG, offers 1-hour telecourses and private lessons on potty training and discouraging unwanted behaviors (visit www.itsyourdog.com for details).



Greyhound's getting ready for a meet & greet at the trial park

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 Franklin, NJ. The information contained in this column is provided without the benefit of a full 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.



Wine and Cheese with the DOGS

"Don't miss out on your chance to sample some of the superb wines from Sussex County's Cava Winery."

Please join us on Saturday, October 4th from 5PM to 7PM for a wonderful evening of fine wine, good food and great music at the Cava Winery and Vineyard, Rt. 94, Hamburg.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person if purchased in advance, or \$35.00 at the door. Included in

the price of ticket is a sampling of 8 different Cava wines, hors d'oeuvres, music and a wine stopper. In addition, Vineyard Restaurant will be donating a free appetizer with any entrée purchase, for all attendees. All proceeds will go towards building an off leash dog park in

Vernon.

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Mary at 201-463-3941 or Barb at 201-230-3973 or email us at info@dogsofvernon.org.

For more information on the Cava Winery and Vineyard, visit their website at www.cavawinery.com.

In Case of Emergency.....

It's important to make sure your pets will be taken care of if you are ever in an accident and unable to return home.

One good way is to keep a card in your wallet next to your

driver's license where it will more likely be seen if you are injured and otherwise incapable of taking care of your pets.

This "In case of Emergency" card should contain your

pets name(s), date of birth, description, Vet, and numbers of people to be contacted should you be unable to return home to care for your pets. Please, don't leave them stranded.

Our 2nd Annual Dog Wash and Nail Clipping

Our 1st dog wash and nail clipping fundraiser was such a success that we decided to do it again.

Don't miss our 2nd annual dog wash and nail clipping on Saturday, July 26th from 2 to 5pm at the Vernon Fire Department. Dr. Mike Ramieri and his group of volunteers from the Vernon Veterinary Hospital will be on hand to clip nails while volunteer members of DOGS will do the bathing.



The price is \$12 per dog for nail clipping, \$10 per dog for wash or \$20 for both, Senior Discounts available.

A word of caution: we have been monitoring the canine influenza outbreak. The kennel involved has voluntarily closed for 2 weeks. We are keeping in touch with local the vets to make sure there are no other outbreaks in our area. We have also been in contact with the state on this matter. For

the sake of all dog's health we are asking that any dog kept at the Spa from Jun 15-July 4 not attend. At the same time DOGS of Vernon will be monitoring and reserve the right to exclude any dog from the premises that shows signs of poor health.

We are sure that this won't be necessary since we are all responsible pet owners that care about our dogs and others.

Agility: Fun for Both You and Your dog

By Lynn Nowak

Agility is an exciting; fast paced, heart pumping, *and get your game on* competition sport that is fun for both you and your dog to enjoy learning together. An agile and versatile nature is beneficial to develop the teamwork needed to maneuver the obstacles on the Agility course. You will enjoy learning the “Tricks of the Trade” to successfully navigate the course within a set amount of time.

Could Agility be just the thing for you?

Are you looking for an activity other than video virtual dance?

Are you looking for a sport that will get you and your dog off the couch and back in shape?

Are you looking for an activity that will develop and strengthen your muscle mass?

Do you have the endurance to sprint for one minute?

Are you interested in tapping into your competitive edge?

Are you willing to learn how to develop a mental strategy for directing your dog off leash around an obstacle course?

Are you willing to train to achieve control over your dog's fast paced movements with patience and, most of

all, teamwork between you and your dog? If you answered YES to any of these questions then Agility Dog Training is just the thing for you and your dog. Read on and just give it a try!

What's Agility all about?

There are many Registries that sponsor Dog Agility events some of which include ; American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC) , North American Dog Agility Council, Inc. (NADAC), United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA), etc. An AKC Agility course will consist of the following obstacles depending upon the level you are training or competing at with the dog;

Jumps - All bar jumps have easily displaced bars for injury prevention should your dog misjudge and take down a bar. Some jumps will have wings meant to challenge the distance between dog and handler.

A Broad jump consists of gradual raised panels with four marker poles

A Tire jump is where the dog must jump thru a circular shaped opening.

Tunnels

A Closed tunnel or Shoot – consists of a tunnel entrance that drapes closed where the dog must push thru without clearly seeing an exit

Open tunnels – where the dog runs thru, the tunnel can be positioned straight, or curved, etc.

A Pause table – where the dog must sit or lie down for a five second count

Weave poles - the dog must enter to the right of the first pole and weave each one until they exit the last pole going to the left

Contact Obstacles include a **Dog-Walk**, **See-Saw**, and an **A-Frame**. The dog is required to have at least one paw touch the yellow painted areas known as the “contact” zone on the way up and especially on the way down the contact obstacles. Dogs will be faulted on the contact obstacle when one or more paws are NOT in the contact zone while ascending and descending. All contact equipment surfaces are roughened for good traction in both dry and wet weather.

Next Newsletter: learn how to get started in this exciting and fun sport.



Lynn Nowak demonstrating agility to visitors at the trial dog park.

“Are you looking for a sport that will get you and your dog off the couch and back in shape?

If yes, than Agility Dog Training is just the right thing!”

DOGS of Vernon

P.O. Box 221
Vernon, NJ 07462

PHONE:
(201) 230-3973

E-MAIL:
info@dogsofvernon.org

Yahoo Groups
dogsofvernon@yahoogroups.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.dogsofvernon.org

We need your help!

Now that we have our 501C3 non profit status we are diligently researching available grants, both corporate and government, that will help us raise the funds needed to establish our off leash park.

Our fundraisers help a

Looking Ahead

Our most exciting news is that we are currently working with a civil engineer who has graciously donated his time to help us design a park in a section of "Open Space" town property on Sand Hill

About DOGS of Vernon....

DOGS of Vernon was established in February 2007 as a community effort to create an off-leash dog park in Vernon. Our effort is inspired by the success of the Wantage dog park, which,

lot but they are not enough so we are asking those of you who haven't yet joined our organization to so now. Dues are \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per family. We need all the support we can get from Vernon dog owners if we are to succeed.

Road. Once this is ready, we will be meeting with the Vernon recreation department, town engineer and town manager to get their stamp of approval. Our next step will be

although large is 25 to 35 minutes from most areas of Vernon and is the only off-leash dog park in Sussex County. We are a 501C3 non-profit organization.

We also need volunteers willing to donate time, services or materials needed to build an off leash dog park.

If you wish to join our group or would like to volunteer, please contact us at info@dogsofvernon.org.

presenting our formal proposal to the Vernon Town Council.

We are well on our way to reaching our goal of an off leash dog park for Vernon residents and their dogs!

Officers:
President: Barb Green
Vice President: Mary Bradley
Treasurer: Linda Bruno
Secretary: Pat Lang
Board Member at Large: Michael Ramieri, DVM

Calendar of Events

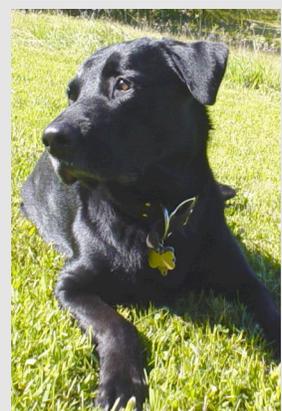
Meetings

Regular meetings are usually held the last Thursday of every month from 7:30PM to 9:00PM at the Vernon Senior Center, Vernon Municipal Bldg, Church St, Vernon, NJ. In July there are 2 meetings scheduled, Thursday July 17 as well as the regular meeting on Thursday July 31.

Fundraising Events

Event: Dog Wash & Nail Clipping Fundraiser.
Date & Time: July 26, 2008 - 2:00 to 5:00 PM,
Place: Vernon Fire Dept, Route 515 South, Vernon
Cost: Dog Wash \$10, Nail Clipping \$12, Both \$20. (Senior discount avail)

Event: Wine Tasting
Date & Time: October 4, 2008 - 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Place: Cava Winery & Vineyard, Route 94, Hamburg
Cost: \$30 per person for advance tickets, \$35 per person at the door



Shadow DeSimone
A Vernon Dog