



Special Interest Articles:

- New baby on the way? Learn the safest way to introduce him/her to the family dog.
- Meet Nicola, a 7 year old who has great ideas on kids can get involved.

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

Welcome Dog Lovers

Hello, fellow dog lovers! We hope that your holiday season was full of joy and cheer!!

We (D.O.G.S. of Vernon) are still striving toward our ultimate goal, which is to establish a leash-free recreation area within the confines of Vernon Township. As a brief update, we have thus far filed our Articles of Incorporation with the State of New Jersey and our application for non-profit status. Our 501C3 application was mailed out on January 26, 2008. Now all we have to do is sit back and wait, which is always the worst part!

It is our goal to appear before the Township Council on March 27th to update the local government of our goals and current progress. We need your support in this area! We currently have petitions placed

throughout the Township (also available online) in support of our goals. If you are a Vernon Township resident, please sign the petition at your earliest opportunity (be sure to give your name, address, etc.). We are confident that there is strength in numbers and this petition will assist us when we go before the Council. By having documentation of the large numbers of Vernon Township residents who are in support of making this dream become a reality, we believe that such a petition will also show the governing body that we are serious about this goal.

We are planning several fundraisers for the upcoming year, many of which will be similar to those we did in 2007, such as the Dog Walk, First Aid Seminar and Dog

Wash/Nail Clipping, as well as many others. Keep checking our website (www.dogsofvernon.org) for dates, times and places of the events.

Our membership dues were due on January 15, 2008, and we hope that you will continue to support us. The fee is \$20 per individual and \$30 per family. It is not too late to send in your check! If you have not already done so, you may mail your dues to: DOGS of Vernon, P.O. Box 221, Vernon, NJ 07462. Feel free to attend any of our meetings as they are all open and we welcome newcomers!

I hope to see you at our next meeting. Until then, be happy, safe, healthy and keep your dogs in the same condition!

Liza Amthor

Pet First Aid Seminar

Spring is right around the corner and for our dogs that means new sights, and smells. Most are good but some may be dangerous. Learn what is and isn't safe for those

long walks.

Join us March 12, 2008 at the Vernon Senior Center, Church Street, Vernon. Presented by Michael Ramieri, DVM

The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please call 201-230-3973 or email: info@dogsofvernon.org to reserve your seat.

(Benefit D.O.G.S. of Vernon)

A case for a Dog Park



According to the 2000 census, Vernon Township has approximately 8500 families. With over 5000 licensed dogs in Vernon, that's one dog for every 1.7 voting and taxpaying household.

Vernon Township offers its residents an unsurpassed variety of outdoor activities including skiing, swimming, fishing, hunting, boating, camping,

horseback riding, hiking, cycling and golf.

We have a beautiful new park for our children to play organized sports. We are also lucky enough to live in close proximity to recreation areas like Waywayanda State Park, the Appalachian Trail, and Stokes State Forest.

But the sad truth is that none of these fine recreation areas allow

dogs to run off leash.

Studies have shown that, when dogs are exercised and socialized, there is a measurable drop in dog on dog and dog on human aggressive incidents.

A dog park in Vernon would benefit all residents by making Vernon's dog population Canine Model Citizens!

Children can learn so much from volunteering and have fun too!!

Kid's Corner

Hi, my name is Nicola. I am 7 years old. And I love DOGS!

I like to help dogs and there are many ways kids like me can help dogs.

1. Kids can collect blankets from family, friends, and neighbors to give to the shelter.
2. Kids can save money or raise money to buy dog food to give to the shelter.

3. Kids can walk and play with their dogs. Dogs need their exercise. Kids can also feed and take care of their dog since their dog depends on them for everything.

4. Kids can teach other kids how to be nice to dogs and how to take care of them

5. Kids can help with fundraisers for dog parks!

I hope Vernon gets a dog

park for my dog Chico. Chico loves to play with friends and it makes him a happier dog. I want to help the dog park.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Nicola R.



DOG Walk at Maple Grange Park

The cold, blustery days of winter are coming to an end and spring is in the air! Soon it will be bathing suit weather.

What better way to get in shape for both you and your pup than a nice long walk in the park?

We invite your entire family and your dog(s) to come join us for a walk in Vernon's beautiful Maple Grange Park.

D.O.G.S. of Vernon will be holding its first dog walk of 2008 on Sunday March 30, 2008 at Maple Grange

Park between 11am and 2pm.

Bring your best friend and get sponsors. Bring other family members along and get the kids involved too!

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Dog Walk (continued)

Sponsorship forms were distributed to all Vernon Public School Children in grades K through 5 last week. Instead of an entry fee, children can get family and friends to sponsor them for the dog walk.

Prizes will be awarded to the top two students that raise the most money in grades K-1, grades 2-3, and Grades 4-5.

For all other dog walking participants:

Donation:

\$15.00 for 1 dog

\$25.00 for 2 dogs.

Money is due at the start of the walk.

Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from the files in our Yahoo groups- dogsofvernon.

If you are not a member of the group, you can also obtain a sponsorship form by calling 201-230-3973 or emailing us at:

info@dogsofvernon.org.



“What a better way to get in shape for summer than a walk in the park with your family and dog(s)”

Introducing a Newborn to the Family Dog(s)

By: Michael Ramieri, DVM

Ok, so you have years of loving interaction between you and your canine cohorts and now there is a new bundle of joy ready to make an entrance just over the horizon. This situation presents most people with a little anxiety and the thought of introducing a newborn baby to a home with one or more dogs can seem like a daunting task. Of course, all involved will want to make this important transition with as little upheaval and turmoil as possible. Most notably we

all want to make the introduction safe, so that no child or dog becomes another frightening statistic. Helping the previous center, or centers, of attention to cope with this big change is critical to having many years of rewarding interaction and strengthening the human/animal bond. The following article provides some tips to help make this process as smooth as possible.

First of all, it is very

important to have your dogs examined by a veterinarian to insure that they are healthy and free of both internal and external parasites. Certain intestinal worms can be transmitted to people and can be harmful, especially to young children. Having your dog spayed/neutered may also be helpful. Intact animals are more likely to have issues with aggression and territorial behavior. Neutered animals tend to be calmer

Introducing a Newborn to the Family Dog(s) cont.

“If your dog has any history of unpredictable behavior, it is imperative that you seek professional help before bringing baby home.”

overall. Keep in mind that the hormonal influences can last for some time after neutering so plan at least a month ahead of the baby's arrival. Also, make sure that any pre-existing behavioral problems are addressed well before the time of introduction. It is always a good idea to attend basic obedience/training classes with any dog, especially when an infant is going to be around. If you know that your dog growls when you take toys away, nips or bites, guards his/her food, has a strong prey drive, or has any history of unpredictable behavior, it is imperative that you seek professional help in correcting such behaviors before bringing baby home. Contact your veterinarian or a veterinary behaviorist for recommendations regarding your particular situation. Make sure that you discourage and prevent jumping up and keep your pet's nails trimmed at all times.

“NEVER leave a dog with a baby or small child unattended no matter how much you trust your dog!”

Acclimating your pet to baby related sounds and smells can be helpful. There are commercially available recordings of baby sounds. It helps to have the dogs accustomed to a crying, cooing, or screaming baby in advance. Some experts

even suggest applying baby powder, moisturizer, or other baby products to your skin so that the dogs are aware of associated smells as well. You can even swaddle a baby-sized doll and carry it around the house.

Whenever conducting any of these techniques, the environment should be positive and full of praises and rewards so that the association to the baby is a positive one also. Keep the dogs.

Keep the dogs out of the baby's room and make it off limits. Dogs should not be left around unattended newborns in general and restricting dogs from the baby's room can prevent accidental encounters. If you sleep with your dogs, you may want to begin removing them from your bedroom a month or two prior to homecoming. This will ensure a safe environment if the bassinette is to be kept near the master bedroom.

Now, for the introduction, it is a good idea for the mother's husband, partner, or someone who knows the dogs well to bring a receiving blanket home 1-2 days prior to the arrival. Make sure the newborn was in contact with the blanket for an hour or so to ensure that

the baby's scent is on the blanket. In a positive environment, show the dogs the blanket and allow them to investigate it with praise and encouragement. If the dogs have a dog bed or particular place they sleep, place the blanket there and allow the dogs to sleep with it. The idea is to get the dogs used to the scent and associate it with good things.

When you arrive home, mom should greet the dogs in a calm manner without the baby first. If you have multiple dogs it is recommended to introduce each dog separately and always have two adults in the room at one time. One adult should hold the baby while the other controls the dog. Take your time and don't rush the interaction. Have the dog sit near mother and baby and praise the dog for good behavior. Depending on your dogs, the introduction may be best managed over the course of a few introductions instead of all at once. Keep the dog separate from baby until the dog is behaving the way you want and responding to your commands when the baby is present. Every situation is different so

Introducing a Newborn to the Family Dog(s) cont.

use common sense and go slow. NEVER leave a dog with a baby or small child unattended no matter how much you trust your dog. Sometimes even seemingly positive interaction can be injurious to a small body.

Once the baby is home, try to keep the dog's routine as close as possible to the way it was before the baby arrived. Put aside one-on-one time with "Fido" for petting, grooming, and praise. Preferably, this interaction should be with the newborn in the room so

that the dog has positive contact with you and the baby simultaneously.

Finally, remember, take your time and be patient. Most dogs are willing to accept another person into their human-animal pack even if some require more TLC than others. Keep a close eye on any interaction, as baby grows older so that the child cannot inadvertently hurt or abuse the dog, Retaliation for pulling on a tail or ear is common reason for a dog to bite a child. If any abnormal or questionable behavior

arises from your pet, separate the animal from the baby and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Don't give up and always be as safe as possible to guarantee a happy and healthy future for you and your pets.



Most dogs are willing to accept another person into their human-animal pack.

Looking Ahead

On March 27th we plan to appear before the Vernon Town Council to update the local government of our goals and current progress. We hope to show them the benefits a dog park will be to the residents of, and visitors to, Vernon Township.

We have made a lot of progress in the past year and now it's time to act.

We will soon have our non-profit status and will be able to start fundraising and applying for grants in earnest.

We have some exciting plans for this year. We're planning a Canine Educational Demonstration featuring Seeing Eye dogs, search and rescue dogs, police dogs, Agility dogs, therapy dogs and more. You will be amazed at what these canines can do!

Also, keep checking our website for dates on other educational seminars, a low cost dog wash and nail clipping and more.

Once we have the approval of the town council, we hope to secure

a site for the dog park and begin breaking ground this year. It's our intention to incorporate other outdoor recreational activities, such as a bird watching trail, within the park area.

It is estimated that it takes approximately \$100,000.00 to get a park off the ground. It sounds like an impossible task yet dog parks are springing up all over the country. If they can do it, so can we!

"A dog park in Vernon would give canine citizens a clean, safe environment to exercise without annoying or undesirable interaction with people, property or wildlife."

D.O.G.S. of Vernon

P.O. Box 221
Vernon, NJ 07462

PHONE:
(201) 230-3973

E-MAIL:
info@dogsofvernon.org

Website:
www.dogsofvernon.org

Yahoo Groups
dogsofvernon@yahoo.com

MySpace page:
<http://groups.myspace.com/dogsofvernon>

Recipe- Homemade Dog Biscuits

The next time you are baking cookies for your family, don't forget your four legged members.

This cookies are simple to make and your dogs will love them. We know of one Irish Wolf Hound who was cured of his bread thieving ways once he got

a taste of these cookies!

Ingredients:

2 cups flour (white or wheat)

1 cup peanut butter

1 tsp baking powder

1 cup milk

Mix ingredients together

into a ball. Knead ball and roll out to about ¼ inch thick. Cut into shapes.

Bake in 375 degree oven for about 20 minutes.

Check after 15 minutes to insure they do not burn

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 although large, is 25 minutes from Vernon and the only off leash dog park

in all of Sussex County. We have submitted an application to become a non-profit organization which will allow us to raise funds and interact with government bodies effectively.

Officers:

President: Eliza Amthor

Vice President:
Barb Green

Recording Secretary:
Pat Lang

Treasurer: Linda Bruno

Board Member at Large:
Michael Ramieri, DVM

Calendar of Events

Meetings

Place: Vernon Senior Center, Vernon Municipal bldg. Church St, Vernon, NJ

Time: 7:30 PM to 9:00PM

Dates: Tuesday March 18

Thursday April 3

Tuesday April 15

Thursday May 1

Tuesday May 13

Thursday May 29

Pet 1st Aid Seminar with Michael Ramieri, DVM

Place: Vernon Senior Center

When: Wednesday March 12, 7:30 PM

Cost: \$10 per person

Dog Walk Fundraiser

Place: Maple Grange Park

When: Sunday March 30, 11:00 am to 2:00 PM

Cost: \$15 for 1 dog, \$25 for 2 dogs, or equivalent sponsorships