

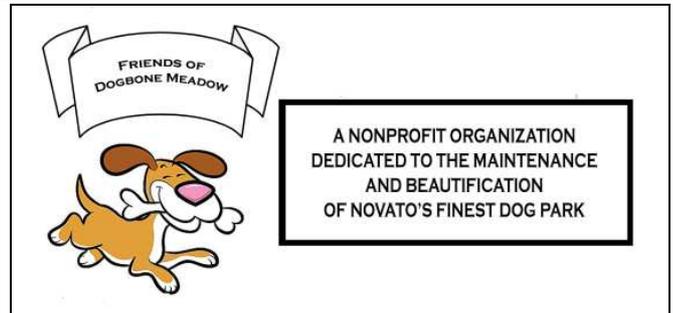
FRIENDS OF DOGBONE MEADOW

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past month has been a very busy and productive one for our group. June was Membership Drive Month. The Board set up a table with membership information and sold tee shirts and caps to raise funds for our proposed small dog area. We added 11 new members. Now we are well over 100 strong. We also sponsored a workshop on dog behavior at the park with Jane Zabielskis, dog behavior consultant, from the Marin Humane Society (please see article). This two hour session was so informative that we have had requests for another. We also had a cookies and lemonade hour at the park to greet people and sell some tee shirts and caps.

Friends of Dogbone Meadow participated enthusiastically in Novato's 4th of July parade. Several members turned out with their dogs to hand out information cards and small bags of dog treats courtesy of PET FOOD EXPRESS in Novato. Those walking included Judy Ahern with Xena, Kelly Nuncio with Molly, Carla Diaz with Jesse, Pat Mulroy with Jersey, Audrey Miller with Mac, and Judy and Alan Rosenbloom with Stella and Buddy. The float/truck was driven by Bill Craig with riders Fran Craig and Marnie Craig, who alternated waving and blowing bubbles to the crowds. Brian Pearson and Courtney Flavin rode on the tail gate of the truck, handing out the handouts and treats and hopping off to deliver a few to the crowds.

I want to profusely thank Fran and Bill Craig who went all out again to help us with the parade. Bill not only donated the use of his pickup, but he and Fran formed a committee to decorate the truck. (Notice the paw print balloons!) Bill and Fran deserve a great round of applause for all their efforts for the dog park over the past year and especially for the 4th of July parade. (MORE ►)



Now we are turning our attention to raise money for the small dog area at the park. We need volunteers to help raise funds for this and to help with Friends of Dogbone Meadow Dog in general. BarkFest in October is our prime fundraiser and we need YOU to step up and volunteer to help. We need people to distribute posters, sell lottery tickets, call on donors for donations to our raffles and silent auctions, and help with advertising and all jobs to organize and put on this event. Please call 415 827 0097 to sign up or donate – or email us at Dogbonemeadows@aol.com

Once again, my thanks to everyone who have helped us and who continue to help us in our efforts to make Dogbone Meadow the best park in the North Bay.

Brian Pearson, President





DOG BEHAVIOR WORKSHOP A BIG HIT

A dozen dog park users and their dogs came to the workshop given by Jane Zabielskis, dog behavior consultant. The two hours flew by as she talked about how to identify arousal before it turns into aggression, suggested we always have a happy voice when we call our dogs, advised us to keep moving around the dog park so our dogs will keep moving and especially won't bunch up at the gate when people are coming and going, and showed us an effective way to separate a humping dog from the humpee. (According to Jane, not only is humping rude because it is not comfortable for the humpee, it can lead to the humpee becoming a humper, too.) Jane also suggested to play with your dogs part of the time they are at the park and call them frequently and reward for attention by more play or treats.

She showed us how to break up a dog fight – a small altercation can generally be interrupted by telling the dogs in a loud firm voice to knock it off or making a loud noise with a whistle or squeaky toy to get their attention and redirect the dogs.. You have to be next to the dogs to break up a fight. If the fight escalates throw a jacket over the fighters or throw water if available. You can throw kibble or treats if you don't have anything else, but then you must grab the dogs and get them apart as soon as they go for the treats. A more intense dog fight requires grabbing each dog by the hind legs and pulling them apart. ONLY if necessary, grab the collar of the offender and twist it tight to get him/her off the other dog. (MORE ►)

You want to avoid dog fights, so learn how to read a dog's body language so that you can monitor your dog and other dogs and can move your dog away from potential bad encounters, including removing your dog from the park if you sense trouble. For example, did you know that if you see a dog shake all over, like he's shaking off water, it's a sign of stress? Other indicators are listed below.

STRESS SIGNALS

- Open mouth, showing all teeth
- Dry panting
- “Whale eye” (obvious whites)
- Stiffness
- Raised hackles
- Dilated pupils
- Glancing from side to side (avoidance)
- Ears pinned or twitching
- Stretching
- Sweating from paws
- Rigid posture
- Dropped tail or tail held under
- Penis crowning
- Licking (lick sores)
- Tongue flicks
- Whining
- Yawning
- Pacing
- Sniffing at ground

SUBMISSIVE

- Ears back and down
- Eyes worried, pupils often dilated
- Mouth retracted
- Tongue flicks
- Body posture low
- Tail tucked

FEAR

- Ears back and down
- Lowered posture
- Ears dropped straight down or tucked
- Eyes dilated

Note: Jane does private dog training at people's homes. Top Dog Training's phone number is 415-203-5964, and the Facebook page is: <http://www.facebook.com/TopDogTraining?v=info>

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

At the City Council meeting on June 12, the Community Garden of Novato made the surprising announcement that they won't need any portion of Dogbone Meadow to accommodate the entrance to the Community Garden. This was good news –the small portion of the dog park they wanted on their first plan had been increased to a larger area on the current plan. Now the dog park will remain as is, and the Heritage Oak should not be impacted. The City Council voted to accept the lease terms, so the Community Garden will go forward as soon as they raise \$200,000. This means the creation of a small dog area is our responsibility, which brings us to:

FUNDRAISING BEGINS FOR SMALL DOG AREA

Now that the Community Garden is going its own way, it is up to us to make the small dog area a reality. The Board will be meeting with Pam Shinault, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, to discuss the location and funding of the small dog area. We have started to raise money by selling tee shirts and caps; all the profits will go toward the small dog area. To purchase a tee shirt or cap or both, flag down a Board member (look for the badge) at the park to purchase a tee shirt for \$22 (tax included, XL and XXL \$24) or a cap (\$20, tax included) or both for \$35 (tax included, XL and XXL \$37) or email dogbonemeadows@aol.com to make arrangements. To make a donation specifically for the small dog area, just send a check to Friends of Dogbone Meadow, P.O. Box 773, Novato, CA 94948 and indicate that it's for the small dog area.



Candidate for the Small Dog Area!



Postmore Kennels
Bed, Breakfast & Hair Salon for Dogs

753 McClay Novato, CA 94947 Phone: 415.897.5892

**DROP IN AND HAVE YOUR
DOG'S NAILS CLIPPED
FOR ONLY \$5 (PER DOG)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friends of Dogbone Meadow
Annual Meeting
September 8, 2012**

**BarkFest
October 21, 2012 at Dogbone
Meadow**



K9 SCENTRY
BEDBUG DETECTION

Robert Wallace
Owner, K9 Handler

www.k9scentry.com 415-899-1672 info@k9scentry.com

DOGS OF THE MONTH

BUDDY AND STELLA

You may have already talked to Alan Rosenberg, pictured below with his dogs Stella (left) and Buddy (right), at the dog park. He encourages everyone he sees to join Friends of Dogbone Meadow. Alan is the most recent dog park user to join the Board of Directors.



Here is what Alan has to say about his dogs:

“Buddy has been with us for two years. He is 3 years old. He had been hit by a car and abandoned and, badly hurt, ended up in Berkeley at Any Dog Rescue. They were thinking he would not recover from his wounds, but they gave him time, and he recovered. But he developed kennel cough and had to be removed from the general population. We offered to care for him. Buddy healed, and we did not want to give him back. It took awhile for him to trust us, but now he is a great dog.

“Stella Luna was very young and had puppies, and the owner gave her and the puppies to Any Dog Rescue. They found owners for the puppies, but Stella needed a home and some security and we volunteered to take her in. She is a wonderful pet with lots of energy and lots of fun to play with. We were very happy to see that Buddy received her with happy joy. Stella has been with us for a year and a half; we think she is 2 years old.”

Is there a dog you'd like to nominate for Dog of the Month? Send the information to Dogbonemeadows@aol.com.

**FRIENDS OF DOGBONE MEADOW
PROFUSELY THANKS**



**FOR ITS GENEROUS DONATION OF TREATS
AND COUPONS FOR US TO GIVE OUT
AT THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE**