

FRIENDS OF DOGBONE MEADOW

WWW.FRIENDSOFDONBONEMEADOW.COM

NUMBER 22



A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO THE MAINTENANCE
AND BEAUTIFICATION
OF NOVATO'S FINEST DOG PARK

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past month has been very active as the Board held meetings and planning sessions to try to counter another attempt by the Garden Group and City to take some of our dog park to use to gain access to the site of the proposed Community Garden. After hearing rumors of a proposed plan to put a parking lot exactly where we wanted our small dog area to go, Courtney Flavin and I finally sat down with the City Staff, the Novato Fire Marshall, and two representatives from the Garden Group.

The rumors proved to be all too true. The parking lot would have been extended all the way to the proposed Community Garden, resulting in the loss of several trees, the water station, and three benches. We in turn were to receive the area west of the park where the proposed Community Garden would have their parking.

Fortunately we had an alternate plan. We proposed the access way be built on the 16 feet of land between the dog park and Novato Blvd. So Garden Groupers would enter from Novato Blvd, go through our parking lot, make a right turn at the fence, enter the access road, and make a left turn where the Heritage Oak used to be, and arrive at the proposed Community Garden. (See map on page 4.)

I am very happy to announce that this plan is now being drafted by the Novato Engineering Department and a subcontractor from the Garden Group. The outcome of the meeting was that we are happy not to lose our small dog area, the Garden Group is happy not to have to change their plans all around, and I believe the City is happy that all parties are happy.

Later that same day, we attended the City Council meeting to tell City Council of the results of our earlier meeting. They seemed to be pleased.

I want to thank you ALL for your support during this time without which we might have lost part of our park.

We are planning some fundraisers for the future to raise funds for some additions and repairs to our park. If you have ideas for improvements, please send them to our website at

fodm@friendsofdogbonemeadow.com
or to dogbonemeadows@aol.com. Thanks.

Also:

**MANY, MANY THANKS TO JUDY
AHERN AND HER FELLOW WEEDERS –
THE PARK LOOKS GORGEOUS**
Despite the dry spring, there were plenty of weeds at Dogbone Meadow and they were scheduled to be sprayed with insecticide. Judy Ahern and lots of volunteers hand weeded and kept Roundup spray away from our dogs. Foxtails were a special problem – please note on page 2 where they still may pose a danger.

Brian Pearson
President

FOXTAILS CONTINUE TO POSE A PROBLEM AT DOGBONE MEADOW

There was a huge crop of foxtails at Dogbone Meadow this spring. Most of them were hand weeded, but many turned brown in the hot spell and in the weeding process, a lot of them ended up on the ground in this area:



This means that there is a danger of dogs sniffing them and ending up with a foxtail up the nose. If you see discharge from the nose, or if your dog is sneezing frequently and intensely, there may be a foxtail lodged in a nasal passage. This is painful and serious. Foxtails travel through a dog's body and have been found in the brain, spine, eardrums, lungs, heart – just about anywhere.

So check your dog's body after each visit to the dog park or each walk in a grassy area. Especially check paws, ears, and mouth. If your dog is limping, it could be a foxtail imbedded in a paw. If your dog is shaking its head, tilting it to one side, or scratching constantly at an ear, there may be a foxtail imbedded so deep inside the ear canal you can't see it. Your veterinarian needs to take a look using a special scope. Redness, discharge, swelling, squinting, and pawing all may be signs your dog has a foxtail lodged in its eye. If you think this may be the case, seek veterinary care immediately.

The easiest way to prevent foxtail problems is to keep your dog out of overgrown, grassy areas. You should also pull out any foxtail plants you find in the dog park or in your yard. Also consider trimming your dog's hair during foxtail season.

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PARK RULES

Each month we randomly pick a rule to discuss. This month it's rule No. 2: No Aggressive Dogs are permitted within the Dog Park. Aggressive Behavior is established if a dog bites any person or domestic animal or has been found to otherwise threaten or endanger the safety of any person or domestic animal. An Owner/Handler of a dog(s) that has displayed this type of aggressive behavior shall remove the dog(s) from the Dog Park immediately.

Sometime ago, there was one dog who could clear the dog park immediately. Dog park regulars knew there was inevitably trouble with this dog and this owner, and so they left. But more often, dog aggression happens unexpectedly and very quickly. When it does, it is important that firm, decisive action be taken. Unfortunately, many dog owners become defensive when their dogs are at fault. At those moments, it might be wise to remove yourself and your dog from the dog park even if your dog is not the problem.

Know your dog. If your dog doesn't like children or doesn't like a particular breed of dog, then you have to be especially vigilant (or leave) if that breed shows up or if children arrive. (Kids who are unfamiliar with dogs will often run away screaming from a barking dog, which tends to make the situation worse.)

Watch your dog. The dog park is not the place to have a long conversation on your cell phone or even a long conversation with other people in the dog park. Be aware of where your dog is and what he or she is doing. Even the best behaved dog can be provoked into unexpected behavior.

The best approach is to identify aggressive behavior before it happens and take steps to prevent it. To that end: ►►►

On July 19th at 11:00 a.m. in a shady spot at Dogbone Meadow, Kathy Wells of the Marin Humane Society will give a seminar on dog park behavior and how to recognize and deal with aggression. The last seminar on the same subject was a tremendous success. Friends of Dogbone Meadow is sponsoring the seminar; there is NO CHARGE, it's FREE, it costs NO MONEY.

HOT TIPS FOR A HOT SUMMER

Presumably dog owners have gotten the message about not leaving a dog in a car on a hot day – even for a few minutes – and we all know it's better to walk a dog in the cool of the morning or evening. But asphalt and sidewalks stay hot for a long time and even dirt paths can be too hot for a dog to walk on. Paws are easily burned.

Before you walk your dogs, feel the pavement or dirt with the back of your hand to make sure it won't be too hot for your dog to walk on. If your dog starts dancing around, move him or her to cooler grass immediately.



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

ENJOYING THE SHADE AT DOGBONE MEADOW



During the recent hot spell, dogs and dog owners took long breaks in the shade. The new grass took quite a beating in the heat, but the Novato City Maintenance Department is making some adjustments to the sprinkler system, so the grass should be green again soon.

ANOTHER MAP! THIS IS THE PROPOSED ENTRANCE TO THE COMMUNITY GARDEN THROUGH DOGBONE MEADOW PARKING LOT

A meeting was held on June 10th with City staff and representatives from the Community Garden and Friends of Dogbone Meadow to establish once and for all where the entryway for the Community Garden will be. Fortunately, at that meeting the plans to build a large parking area where the small dog area was planned to go were discarded; instead, a driveway will be constructed outside the dog park leading from the parking area to the parking area of the Community Garden as pictured below. We'll lose a little bit on two corners, and we might have to move two trees whose roots might be impacted by the driveway, but that seems better than losing a shady portion of the park altogether.



NOT YET A MEMBER? EASY TO JOIN! HERE'S THE FORM! OR JOIN ON THE WEBSITE (*have we mentioned the website lately?*): www.friendsofdogbonemeadow.com

Name _____

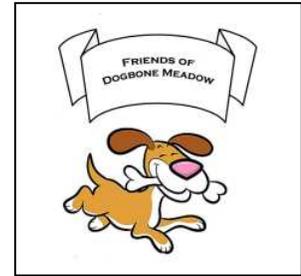
Street _____

City/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Dog's name _____



Individual voting membership (\$26) _____

Or

Individual associate membership (\$13) _____

And/or

Donation _____

TOTAL: _____

Send to:

Friends of Dogbone Meadow
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Novato, California 94948

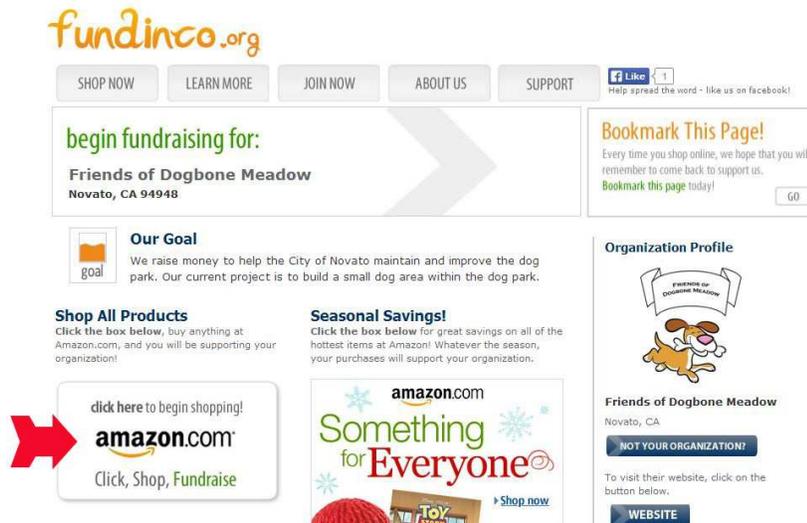
HOW TO DONATE PAINLESSLY

By clicking on a button on our website, 3% of your Amazon purchase will go to Friends of Dogbone Meadow. Here's how it works:

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2. Click on the "Shop Amazon and Donate" button. You will be taken to a page that looks like this:



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