

Paw Park Barker

Newsletter for the Kenton Paw Park Dogs and the Humans That Love Them

Volume 2, Issue 1



June 2008

Welcome to a new year of FUN

With the return of spring, Phase I (aka the Winter Park) has been closed and we have moved back to Phase II. The reopening of Phase II was delayed due to the wet weather. The grounds were very wet in April and we did not want to destroy the grass as soon as the park opened. As of mid May we are waiting to get the grass cut, again the wet weather has prevented the landscaping company from mowing. If it keeps raining, the dogs will all be playing hide & seek at the park. We also have running water. The plumber has repaired and reconnected the water. The cost of getting the repairs made and the water turned back on was \$325.



The Paw Park was built, is maintained and run completely by volunteers with money from donations and fund raising. Your tax dollars were not used to create or maintain the park. If you have a special talent that could help the park or you just want to help, why not volunteer some time, help make things better. To volunteer, email Donna the Volunteer Coordinator and let her know what you would like to do. Her email address is donna@kentonpawpark.com. Don't have email, you can give your name and phone number to any of the volunteers at the park or you can fill out a volunteer card at Pets Plus in Taylor Mill. The park can only be as good as what you put into it.



Have an idea – make a suggestion. We have an on-line suggestion box on our website. On the Contact Info page, click on the suggestion box and let us know your idea. You can also email your suggestions to ideas@kentonpawpark.com. Please include your name and contact information in case we need to contact you. If you don't have email, you can drop off your suggestions at Pets Plus.

Just A Romp In The Park?

Kristan K. Hodges, DVM

It's springtime! We all just love to get outside and stretch our legs after the long winter, breathe the fresh air, smell the Hyacinths and the Daffodils. What a wondrous season! Of course, we might also have to think of the potentially harmful things that can also come with this season, not only for ourselves, but also for our four-legged companions.

INJURY

For those new to the Paw Park and the Barker, I'll first mention something about which I've written in the past. That is that the rules of the park are posted on site and are listed on the Kenton Paw Park website. Please read them over and follow them carefully. They exist for safety and protection, for the benefit of the facility itself and of you and your dog as well. There are inherent dangers that can come with unrestrained K-9 play, especially group play. However, with a little forethought and respect for others, all can leave the park with only their exhaustion and fond memories to reflect upon.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

With the concentration of a large number of dogs in a relatively confined area comes the possibility of sharing the unpleasant with the fun. While the rules specifically state that all dogs are to be current on vaccine status as recommended by their veterinarian, occasionally someone could slip through the cracks. The best ways to keep your own dog free of infectious disease are to keep him/her current on all veterinarian-recommended vaccines and to keep them well-fed on a well-balanced, good quality K-9 diet! This does not mean feed the dog what you eat. A dog is a dog, a cow is a cow, a horse is a horse, a human is a human, etc. Get my drift? And we all have different diets on which we thrive. When the line is crossed, something suffers, so don't cross it!

There are other diseases that you may not commonly think about being a danger to your dog. We have all heard the stories of a slow-moving, late summer river being a possible source of polluted or bacteria-laden water. Sadly, there is such a source running adjacent to our park, and it doesn't take late summer for it to run slowly. That source is Banklick Creek. Thankfully, state funds have recently become available to begin the long-awaited process of cleaning it up. But that will take time, and until it is a completed and successful project, all are advised

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Just A Romp In The Park? – continued

not to allow their pets to drink from the creek. All who do are at risk of exposure to pollutants in runoff water as well as coli form contamination (E. coli for instance). Neither is a pretty prospect but the danger will remain where it is if you just stay out of the water!

PARASITES

Giardia is a protozoan parasite that can also be found in contaminated water as well as any moist environment where it has been deposited (fecal contamination). Though more of a threat to puppies, adult dogs can be affected, causing a stubborn, chronic diarrhea accompanied by weight loss and a generalized “unthrifty” condition. While treatable, the only effective preventive step here is conscientious waste control. Clean up your own mess!

Other intestinal parasites also thrive in warmer weather. Roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms are all far more common in the summer months since there is no freeze to kill them off. Tapeworms, too, though these do not pass directly from dog to dog. In the case of the most common type of tapeworm found in dogs in this region, the flea is the intermediate host for the parasite. In the simplest terms, the worm segments (when dry they look like rice) containing eggs pass from an infected dog and are consumed by flea larvae living free in the environment. The worm partially matures in the flea larva as it develops into an adult. Then the next dog that is unfortunate enough to get the flea, bites at the flea which is biting him, thereby consuming the now-infective tapeworm. Confused? Well, your veterinarian probably has pictures to help explain the whole thing better, but hopefully you get the idea. Anyway, I’ve just given you the key to eliminating worry about all of these nasty “gut hobos.” See your veterinarian. He/she can put your dog on a regular preventive care program that will effectively deal with these as well as another increased summertime threat, the heartworm. Remember, heartworms are carried by mosquitoes. And mosquitoes need what for their breeding ground? That’s right, slowly moving or stagnant water! Recall that creek I mentioned? ‘Nuff said.

And, by the way, you and your dog are back outside, and for your dog that also means flea and tick season. Ticks are especially bad in the spring, though they are around all summer long. Fleas get worse as the summer goes along. Flea and tick collars are helpful, but I just don’t think they are the panacea that they seem to promise. And I have never been a fan of flea and tick shampoos as a means of controlling these parasites. To me, the spot-on type treatments (Frontline, etc.) are the way to go. Properly handled (just read and follow directions) they are safe, effective, long-lasting and simple to use. They are not meant to be consumed, so how and where you apply them is extremely important! Again, just read and follow directions.

So, is it just a romp in the park? You bet! And loads of fun, too. Just ask my daughter, who frequently goes there with her standard poodle, Murphy. BUT, she goes prepared with the knowledge, preparation, and forethought to keep that outing as enjoyable as she had envisioned that it would be.

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Paw Park Rules

Quadrupeds

- Play Nice

Bipeds

- Play Nice
- Clean Up After Your Quadruped

Detailed explanation of rules:

- A leash in not to be used inside the designated “Dog Park”. Absolutely no chain, choke or prong collars are permitted.
- Dog handlers must be inside the “Dog Park” and within view of their dogs at all times.
- Aggressive dogs are not permitted and must be removed at the first sign of aggression.
- Dog handlers are responsible for pick-up, sealing and disposal of waste in designated containers.
- All dogs must be current with all shots as recommended by a veterinarian.

To be continued...

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Puppy Tales



In cooperation with the Kenton County Public Library. Registered children in Grades 1-6 will have a 20 minute time slot to read one-on-one to a dog who loves to hear stories! You bring the kids, we'll supply the dogs! Call 962-4032 for more information. Registration Required.



3 Ways to Naturally Calm Your Pet

Jona E. Kessans & Erin Tepe, DVM

Ever come home to find that your beloved pet has ripped the stuffing out of decorative pillows, chewed on doors and baseboards, or just knocked items off tables and made a royal mess? Most pet owners have, especially those living in urban environments.

Pets like people require a daily dose of socializing and a bit of “getting out on the town.” Moreover, according to Dr. Erin Tepe of Kindred Spirits Veterinary Health Center in Covington, KY, “dogs tend to be pack animals who don’t understand why the lead member of their pack (that’s you) has left the rest of the pack. Being alone and cooped up all day in a condo or apartment adds to a dog’s stress and boredom and cabin fever sets in, leading to destructive behaviors.”

“Luckily, however, there are a few steps you can take to alleviate boredom-based destructive behaviors”, says Jona Kessans, president of Zen Dawg Pet Care Services. First, as recommended by Dr. Tepe, is to “use a plug-in diffuser called a D.A.P. (Dog Appeasing Pheromone).” Created by veterinarians, the D.A.P. diffuser consists of a 30-day bottle that delivers calming pheromones 24 hours a day, covers up to a 650 square foot area, and is best used for temporary events such as when you are away at work or on vacation. D.A.P. units can be purchased at your local pet store or online.

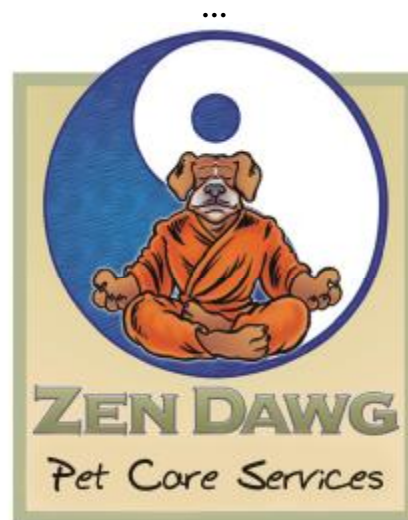
The second best method of calming your frantic animals is to have a pet sitter or dog walker visit your home once per day during workday and multiple times per day when you are out of town. Every dog loves a good walk and every cat (admittedly or not) enjoys a bit of midday affection. “Even a short 15-30 minute walk or play session for your pet can be enough to provide an outlet for excess energy, thus providing mental and physical stimulation which can extinguish destructive behaviors,” says Jona Kessans. “Plus having your dog walked midday allows the release of natural exercise-induced endorphins and makes for a much calmer, thus happier pet in the evening”, according to Dr. Tepe.

The third natural way to calm your pet is to leave a t-shirt that you’ve worn in your pet’s sleeping area. “Often times pets chew on items we touch often (i.e. T.V. remotes, around doorknobs, and books) because our scent is on them”, says Dr. Tepe. “An article of clothing with your scent on it provides a comfortable and secure feeling for your stressed pet”, says Jona Kessans.

There are many reasons for pets acting and reacting in stressful ways. These are just three ways to help deter unwanted behaviors and provide solutions that will naturally calm your pet without resorting to other methods which could potentially be more stressful to your pet and certainly to you. “Because”, as Jona Kessans says, “inner peace for your pet is inner peace for you.”

Erin Tepe, DVM, is owner and operator of Kindred Spirits

Veterinary Health Center, a holistic veterinary care center and Jona E. Kessans is owner and operator of Zen Dawg Pet Care Services, a complete pet concierge service, located at 4147 Madison Pike, Covington, KY 41017. In partnership, Dr. Tepe and Jona provide pet owners with a complete array of pet care services and can be reached at 859-356-2242, 859-653-4052 or www.ZenDawgPetCare.com.



2009 Paw Park Calendar

Based on the success of the 2008 Calendar we have started on the 2009 Calendar. Have some fun and help support the park at the same time. Put your best pal(s) on the 2009 Kenton Paw Park Calendar, they make excellent gifts.

\$10 per day for pictures

\$10 per calendar

Details on our web site:

www.kentonpawpark.com/2009

Support your park at no cost to you!!

Go to the www.kentonpawpark.com and click on “Support your Park” and complete the Caring Neighbor form and return to any Remke Market. The park earns 2% on qualifying purchases



**Earn up
to 2%* on
qualifying
purchases!**

*** If you signed up before last fall, you must resign up for the park to continue to receive money based on your purchases. Check your receipt, if Friends of Kenton Paw Park is not listed, sign up***



**Pit Bulls, American Staffordshire Terriers,
Staffordshire Bull Terriers & Mixes of these
breeds are NOT permitted in the Paw Park !**

While it is not our intention to discriminate, the Paw Park is located within Covington City limits and we must adhere to their laws and ordinances. The Paw Park is not part of the Kenton County Parks and Recreation Department. It is solely run by FKPP Inc, a non profit organization and does not receive any tax dollars for the operation or maintenance of the Paw Park. The property is leased from Kenton County and should you be asked to remove you dog for any reason, you must do so or you will be considered a trespasser.

Covington’s ordinance (ORD.#90.10) requires pit bull dogs (American Kennel Club standard for American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and the United Kennel Club standard for American Pit Bull Terrier and any dog which contains as an element of its breeding the breed of Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier or American Pit Bull Terrier) must be on a leash no longer than 3 feet, muzzled and controlled by a person 18 yrs. of age or older at all times when in public.

The Paw Park is an Off-Leash area; dogs inside the fenced area must be off leash. These restricted breeds must be on a leash and therefore may NOT be brought into the Paw Park.

We ask you to please respect the law and other guest by not insisting on bringing them in. Doing so may result in having Animal Control or the police called and removing your dog. This may also result in your dog being impounded.

Your veterinarian’s statement as to the breeds mix does not hold up. The only testament allowed as to the breeds mix is by an animal control officer or a police officer. Many veterinarians do not support breed specific laws and are therefore calling these breeds mixes of “Boxers, Bulldogs, etc.” or any breed they feel may have the same characteristics of a Pit Bull. This is why the courts will not allow a veterinarian’s statement.

In closing, should you bring your pit, or pit mix into the park and are asked to leave, please do so peacefully. We do not want to make a big issue of this, and no one wins in this type of situation.

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Advertise with the Paw Park

Support the park and help your business at the same time.

*Newsletter
Calendar
Park Banners*

Contact us for details.



2008 Events

Pool Parties



- June 14th – Saturday 11-2
- July 13th – Sunday 11-2
- Aug 9th – Saturday 2-7
- Sept 14th – Sunday 11-2



Food & Drinks Available

Golf Outing – October 4th



**Santa Pictures - December 6th
Education Events - tbd**



**KCAS Pet Fair – August 30th
Kenton County Library – Wm Durr Branch**

Check web site & bulletin boards for updates

Friends of Kenton Paw Park

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