

Paw Park Barker

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

Volume 1 , Issue 2



Fall 2011

BEAST BASH GREAT SUCCESS!!!!

This year's Beast Bash was a great success with an increase of vendors and visitors on the extremely hot day. With many rescues, food companies, and other private animals businesses, there was something for everyone. The event rose over \$7,000 that was evenly split between the Paw Park and the Kenton County Animal Shelter. A special thanks to Sandy Rusch for coordinating the event and Dan Evans and his work crew for all of their hard work in getting the Paw Park reopened. Next year we are hoping to expand the event bringing in more booths, activities, and overall family fun! Thank you to all that came both 2-legged and 4-legged!

Rough Ground at the Paw Park

As many of you know there is some very rough ground in and around the Paw Park. The flood waters, in addition to damaging the fencing, also wreaked havoc on the grounds making them rutted and uneven in many spots. Please be careful and aware that the ground is rough and can lead to injuries in both people and canines. We are looking at ways to address the problem and hopefully will have a solution by spring.

New Water Bucket Holders

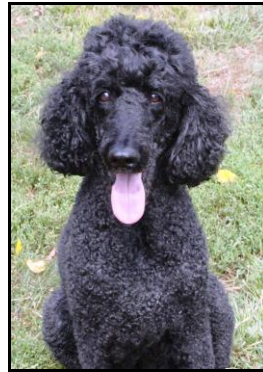
As some have noticed, we have installed new bucket holders around the park for the water buckets. We have all seen running dogs knock over that newly filled water bucket. We hope these hooks will allow the buckets to be kept out of the way of visitors while still giving dogs access to fresh drinking water.

F.A.Q.'s about Kenton Paw Park

1. Just who owns the Paw Park?

The Paw Park is owned and operated by FKPP, Inc., a 501c3 corporation.

(continued page 2)



Paw Park Inspiration Crosses the Rainbow Bridge

The inspiration for the Kenton Paw Park crossed the Rainbow Bridge this morning, September 7, 2011.

Tasha, Tom Biedenbarn's faithful, beautiful poodle was diagnosed last week with cancer, and this morning she had to say farewell.

In March 2003, Tom and Tasha took a trip to Florida to visit Tom's friend Dave. It was during this trip that Tom took Tasha for a walk and discovered a marvelous place: an off leash dog park. He witnessed all these dogs playing and running to their hearts content, no fighting, just having a lot of fun.

When Tom returned to Kentucky, he couldn't stop thinking what a wonderful thing it would be if Northern KY could have a place where dogs could be off leash and run and play. Thus, the idea for the Kenton Paw Park was born.

Tom approached the Kenton Fiscal Court with his idea, but was met with skepticism. This would be the first dog park in Northern KY. Tom continued meeting with county officials and at the same time word started spreading about his idea. A group of individuals joined Tom and Tasha to push for a dog park, the committee was formed. With support from 100's of individuals, local businesses and the media; the Fiscal Court gave the green light to the park in late December. The paw park would be built and maintained using private funds, the committee would lease the land from the county. (continued page 4)

Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals that had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown...

Unfortunately this year at the park we have had many friends pass over the Rainbow Bridge. We will always remember them and the joy they brought to the Paw Park and their canine friends.

<i>Beans</i>	<i>Kato</i>
<i>C.J.</i>	<i>Oscar</i>
<i>Chance</i>	<i>Tasha</i>
<i>Dusty</i>	<i>Winnie</i>
<i>Heidi</i>	

Let us know of any other friends that have crossed over the bridge.

Email: rainbow@kentonpawpark.com

(F.A.Q.'s continued)

2. Who is FKPP, Inc.?

We are a group of dog loving people that have joined together to provide an "off-leash" area for dogs to run free in the safety and their owners to socialize.

3. Where does the money come from to operate the Paw Park?

The money comes from your donations and the fundraisers we put on throughout the year. We receive **NO** money from the Federal, State, or any local government agencies. The park is a private park.

4. Who maintains the Paw Park?

We all do—When you clean up after your dog, it goes a long way toward making the Paw Park all it can be. The same contractor who cuts the County parks cuts the grass BUT we have a separate contract that is paid by FKPP, Inc. Landscaping is done by the Landscaping committee, made up of volunteers. Everything you see at the Paw Park was either donated or purchased through donations made by people like you that want the best Paw Park we can have.

5. How can I get involved?

Call 859-653-4748. That's my cell phone and I will get you in contact with the right person. Join us! We need your help!

**Jeff King, Board Member
FKPP, Inc.**

Improvements to the Park!

In October, the Park, with the help of Boy Scout Troop 236 and an Eagle Scout Candidate will be undertaking the installation of five new benches, concrete pads around all existing benches (along with the new ones), and a new storage shelter for the Paw Park. These improvements will address the need for more seating after the removal of the picnic tables, while also providing the ability for use of the benches in all kinds of weather. The project is tentatively scheduled for October 15th-16th and possibly one additional weekend, depending on the weather. Please be aware that during the project weekends that the WINTER PARK will be the only park open for use. Do you have some other ideas or improvements that you would like to see at the Paw Park? If so contact Matt Elrod at elrodma@nku.edu.



WHY UNALTERED DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE PAW PARK

In March 2010, the Board of Directors of Friends of Kenton Paw Park, Inc. decided to enforce the rule that **no unaltered dogs (unneutered male or unspayed female dogs)** would be allowed in the Paw Park. This was done after receiving many complaints from patrons of the park. The basic problem is that male dogs who are “intact” or unaltered have a tendency to want to “bully” and show their dominance over other dogs. This can lead to fighting and injuries to both dogs and their owners. Female dogs, when in heat, can be just as much of a problem since the male dog, even if altered, will respond to the female as if he were intact. Again, this leads to fighting and possible injury to both dog and owner.

The Board sought the advice of several veterinarians, animal control officers, and trainers as to how to handle these problems. Everyone said the same thing: Ban unaltered dogs from the Paw Park.

You have been asked to leave the Paw Park because your dog is unaltered. We ask for your understanding. We must protect **ALL** of our patrons. Unless you are actively breeding your dog, there is no reason not to alter him or her. Altered dogs make better pets—they live healthier lives, there is less chance they will wander, and no chance of them producing an unwanted litter of puppies.

U-Can offers a low cost spay-neuter program and can be contacted at: 513-721-7387. Kenton County Animal Shelter also has resources that may help.



WHY BULLY BREEDS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE PAW PARK

BULLY BREEDS, LIKE THE PIT, STAFFORDSHIRE, AND PIT MIXES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE PAW PARK

That’s a rule we all have to live with. Why? Your Bully is as gentle as a lamb with people and gets along with every dog they see. That may be true, but the Paw Park is in the City of Covington, Kentucky, and Covington has an ordinance regulating Bully Breeds that says a Bully Breed or obvious Bully Mix **must** be on a 3’ leash and have a no-bite muzzle on whenever they are in public. That’s the ordinance with which you and the Paw Park have to abide.

If we ask you to leave, it because of this ordinance. We do so for both your protection and ours. If an Animal Control Officer or a police officer comes by, they can and will cite you under Covington’s Pit Ordinance and the fine can be substantial. If they have to do this often enough then the Paw Park could be considered a Public Nuisance and could be forced to close.

Finally, we have a rule that dogs in the Paw Park must be off their leash and Bully Breeds can’t be off leash in the city. Please understand that we are not the originators of the ordinance but we, as well as you, must abide by it. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Below is a copy of part of the ordinance:

(2) Leash and muzzle: No person shall permit a vicious dog to go outside of its kennel, pen, or owner’s residence unless such animal is securely restrained with a leash or lead no longer than three feet in length and the leash or lead is physically controlled by a person 18 years of age or older who is in physical control of the leash. Such animals may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts, buildings, etc. In addition, all such animals on a leash or lead outside of the animal’s kennel, pen, or the owner’s residence must be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent the animal from biting persons or other animals.



(Tasha continued from page 1)

The committee officially became The Friends of Kenton Paw Park (FKPP) and began the process of raising the \$50,000 needed. This was the estimate to construct and maintain the park for the first 5 years. The next several months were spent doing whatever was needed to raise the money. Through a number of fund raising events, donations and corporate sponsorships, \$54,000 in cash, labor and materials was raised. In June work started on the park.

During the early days, before the fence was up, before water was in you could see Tom and Tasha walking their field of dreams. It was finally going to happen!

On July 17, 2004 the paw park opened. On August 10th with an estimated 400 people, 100+ dogs and county officials the Kenton Paw Park celebrated its Grand Opening. The park was such a success, it soon needed more space. This time when Tom went back to the Fiscal Court and asked for an additional 3.2 acres located just north of the original park for an expansion, they immediately agreed, noting the success of the dog park, the many happy residents and that the park was now part of the community. In order to allow the new park to open in the spring, a local businessman gave FKPP an interest free loan of \$27,000 for the expansion. Phase II was opened in May of 2005.

Since then, the Kenton Paw Park has enjoyed four years as one of the top 10 dog parks in the US, featured in Dog Fancy Magazine. Since its inception the paw park was envisioned as part of the community. FKPP is involved in the community through various programs. They partnered with the Kenton County Public Libraries and supply dogs for the very popular Puppy Tails program. This is a national program where children read to dogs without the fear of making mistakes. Tasha was one of the first dogs to sign up for the program. They also work with the Kenton County Animal Shelter, and just celebrated the second annual Beast Bash event which raises money for the shelter and the paw park. There are pool parties in the summer, holiday pet photos and a pet blessing in October.

Tom and Tasha didn't spend all of their time working on the paw park. Tom was also a hospice

volunteer and frequent visitor to local nursing homes. Tom and Tasha would go visit others that needed a friend.

Dreams do come true. One person, one dog can change minds, hearts and the community. Who would have thought that from a dream in 2003 the Kenton Paw Park would be what it is today? Nationally recognized, locally supported and loved. To top it off, the friendships made throughout the years, both human and dog and still growing.

Thank you Tom, our thoughts are with you.

Thank you Tasha for inspiring Tom. Wait for us on the other side of the bridge. We will always see you running at the park, we will miss you, but most of all, thank you for the dog you were and for being Tom's best friend.

Love,
Your Paw Park Pals and Their People

* * *

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Pet Blessing Oct. 16
- ❖ Pictures with Santa (Event will be held at Tuscany-Fischer Homes) December 3, 2011

Attention: Remke biggs Shoppers

Would you like to support the Paw Park with little effort?

Here's how:

- ✓ Get a Remke Gift Card from any FKPP Board member or at Pets Plus (They're FREE!)
- ✓ Load the card with money BEFORE you check out. (You can use your Debit/credit card that gives you additional rewards)
- ✓ Pay for your groceries with the newly loaded gift card.
- ✓ The Paw Park gets 4% of your total!

Friends of Kenton Paw Park

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