

News

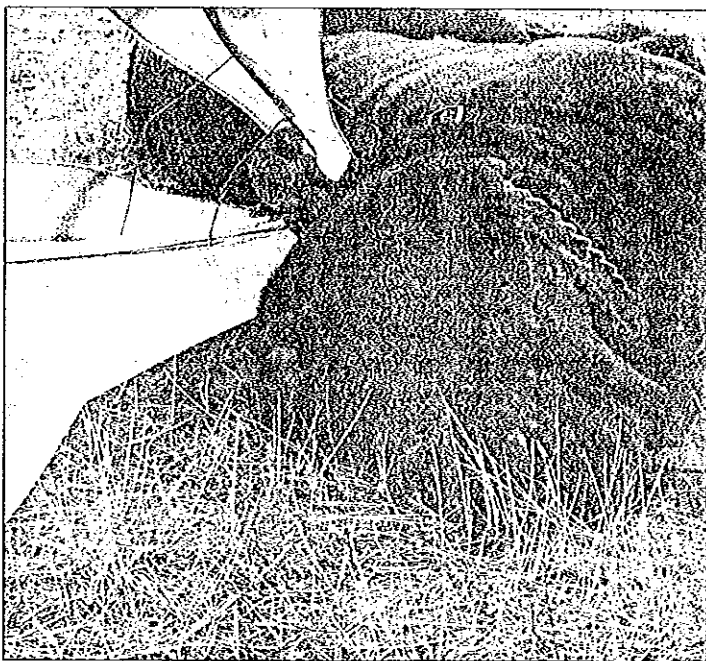
KEVIN HILL/RICHMOND NEWS

Top dog ... Lydia Francescutti and her canine companion Ali put on a show at the annual Animal Wellness Expo at Garry Point Park Saturday.

A dog's life



Third annual Animal Wellness Expo
July 21 attracts a canine crowd



CHRISTINE DURGO/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

He wore his wings, but this pooped pooch wasn't using them as he took a break in the grass.



CHRISTINE DURGO/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Another happy visitor to the Animal Wellness Expo, this one an ambassador for the Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group.

To: Corry Anderson-Fennell, Editor, The Richmond News
From: Jill Seymour, Treasurer, RRDOG
Date: July 23, 2007
Re: Group surveys public about dog park use The Richmond News Friday July 20, 2007 page15

The Editor,

First, congratulations to Tamara Bissett and Paul Brar, City of Richmond Staff, for staging such a successful Animal Wellness Expo at Garry Point on Saturday. We are in A.W.E.!

We are also exhausted! The Richmond News article about the RRDOG survey had visitors lining up at the RRDOG exhibit all day in spite of the wet weather. We had approximately 150 survey questionnaires completed and signed up many new members. Best of all we talked to hundreds of citizens about dog related issues, what RRDOG is doing about them, and what they can do themselves to make our community safer, friendlier, and cleaner for everyone. By the way, not all RRDOG members and directors are dog owners. While I like dogs, I am not a dog owner, I got involved with RRDOG because they address the issues I am concerned about as someone who loves being outdoors in beautiful Richmond! I am vitally interested in making Richmond's green spaces clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Secondly, here are the prize winners from our survey draw: (they are also being notified by telephone that their names were drawn)

Name	Prize	Donated By
Liz Padgett	Doggie Gift Basket	Woof' N-IT Pet Services
Tom Hopper	Biodegradable Doggie Bags	Tisol Pet Food Supermarket
Heather Szabo	Biodegradable Doggie Bags	Tisol Pet Food Supermarket
Chantal Dagerais	Gift Certificate	Sassy Lulu Boutique
Janice Levy	Biodegradable Doggie Bags	Tisol Pet Food Supermarket
Darlene Kubeska	Gift Bag	Candy Bouquet
Neil Klompas	Biodegradable Doggie Bags	Petrenz

Finally, as soon as we have recovered from the A.W.E. (and dried out the survey forms) we will begin to process the responses through our data base and offer the results to The News for publication. Our website is going through a construction renovation right now, as soon as it is completed we will also put the survey on the website (www.richmondrdog.com) so that everyone can participate. Later this year we will present the data to the City of Richmond through our City Dog Liaison.

Thank you, again, to the City of Richmond, the Richmond News, all the RRDOG volunteers, our sponsors, and everyone who came to talk to us and participated in the survey.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Seymour
Treasurer, RRDOG

cc (by email):
Mayor and Council
Paul Brar
Tamara Bissett
Dave Semple
RRDOG Members

COLOUR·TIME
PRINTING & DIGITAL IMAGING

160 - 7740 Alderbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2A3
P: 604.270.9891 F: 604.270.6210
www.colourtime.com

News

ANIMAL WELLNESS EXPO

Group surveys public about dog park use

RRDOG asking visitors to share views

A group of Richmond dog owners wants to know what you think.

The Richmond Responsible Dog Owner's Group is conducting a survey on the use of Garry Point Park for an off-leash area during Saturday's Animal Wellness Expo.

The group — whose members themselves have widely differing views on the subject — is seeking public input in order to put together a dog management strategy for the city.

"We really need this to be as scientific as possible and to reflect the views of the entire city," said RRDOG's Ryan Lake.

Lake says of all the issues concerning dogs in Richmond, few have been more controversial than off-leash dogs at Garry Point Park.

Lake stresses the survey is not a petition, but a serious attempt to gauge public opinion.

The survey will ask participants how to best manage use of Garry Point Park by dogs by choosing one or more of the following:

• Do nothing, status quo, de facto MOPS (multiple use off-leash park);

• Ban dogs altogether;

• Enforce bylaws and charge, prosecute and fine lawbreakers;

• Make Garry Point Park a legal MOP;

• MOP at certain times only;

• DOP (dedicated off-leash area) within Garry Point Park;

• DOP at certain times only;

• Enclosed area for puppies and untrained dogs to play and socialize;

• Dog beach;

• Dog beach at certain times only;

• Adopt RRDOG's Three Pillar Approach (Education, Environment, Enforcement); and

• Other suggestions;

RRDOG members will be present at the event to provide survey forms and information and to discuss relevant issues with visitors.

RRDOG corporate sponsors will also provide draw prizes for survey participants. Survey results will be given to the city and continued on RRDOG's website.

The annual Animal Wellness Expo takes place at Garry Point Park in Steveston on Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



RICHMOND RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS GROUP

Garry Pt. Park Survey Form
Contact Info: 3780 Georgia Street, Richmond, BC V7E 2S2
Tel/Fax: 604.275.4005 email: rrdog@stevemopolis.com
Website: www.richmondrrdog.com

Form with fields for First Name, Last Name, Street Address, City, Postal Code, Home Phone, Work, Cell, Email, and various checkboxes for residency and dog ownership.

Which of the following do you think will be the best dog management strategy for Garry Pt. Park?

Choose one or more of the following by checking the box(es) and adding your comments:

- 1. Leave it as is, de facto MOPS (multiple use off-leash public park).
2. Ban dogs altogether.
3. Enforce bylaw #7932, charge, prosecute and fine lawbreakers.
4. Make Garry Point Park a legal MOP.
5. MOP at certain times only:
a) sunrise to 10 a.m.
b) 5 p.m. to sundown
c) other (please specify)

- 6. DOP (dedicated off-lease area) within Garry Point Park.
7. DOP at certain times only:
a) sunrise to 10 a.m.
b) 5 p.m. to sundown
c) other (please specify)

- 8. ROMP (enclosed area for puppies and untrained dogs to play and socialize safely).
9. Dog swimming beach.
10. Dog beach, certain times only:
a) sunrise to 10 a.m.
b) 5 p.m. to sundown
c) other (please specify)

- 1. Adopt RRDOG's Three Pillar Approach (Education, Environment, Enforcement).
2. Other suggestions:

Signature _____ Date _____

anonymous surveys will be accepted but survey results will be considered both with and without anonymous submissions to avoid skewing results.

Opinion

Failure to scoop poop hurts us all

Richmond Responsible Dog Owners Group (RRDOG) congratulates city council for "ordering the city's bylaws department to do its job." Although we sympathize with beleaguered Wayne Mercer, manager of community bylaws, who is between a rock and hard place, we sincerely hope similar enforcement will be mandated for the most common environmental complaint in Richmond: Failure by irresponsible dog owners/guardians and handlers to remove the poop their pups deposit in parks, on private property and public school grounds.

RRDOG regularly conducts poop patrols as part of our EnviroDog initiative. We find the filthy conditions at all of these locations, and particularly at multiple-use, off-leash privilege public parks just as disgusting as non-dog owners do. Twelve thousand dogs; 700 metric tonnes per annum!

We care less about the letter of the law than solving the larger problem. However, our efforts need to be backed up by enforcement when necessary. In spite of our politely persuasive and respectfully instructive approach to non-compliant dog handlers, some continue to flout both the common sense needed to clean up after their dogs and Bylaw 7932, which requires them to stoop n' scoop. This, in spite of the fact that the city has an excellent program for sponsored poop bag dispensers (which EnviroDog is encouraging the city to load with biodegradable bags, please!). It should be a no-

Deborah Packer



GUEST SHOT

brainer!

One city councillor has told us that dog-related issues form the most frequent cause of complaints she receives from her constituents. Failure to stoop n' scoop, or "do the doo," is the most common of these. Yet the department's own data (obtained through a Freedom of Information request), indicates there has never been a ticket (with its \$100 fine plus adjudication fee, now) prosecuted for this violation. RRDOG understands the difficulty bylaw enforcement and their contractors, the Richmond Animal Protection Society, have in cost-effectively monitoring and deterring these doggie miscreants but RRDOG, through its DogWatch initiative, can help bylaw enforcement efforts to be both effective and cost-effective, by targeting the enforcement. We outnumber them.

Over the past few months, RRDOG DogWatch members have been working with one school's principal, PAC, and BlockWatch captain to resolve the messy problem of students soiled with doggie doo. Yuck! Together, they have achieved a substantial culture of compliance by simply encouraging their doggie neighbours to clean up their act and get others to do likewise.

Unfortunately, there are some stubborn holdouts. In September, when school starts, we will move to the observe, record, report and witness phase of DogWatch because these individuals tar us all with the "bad dog" brush.

EnviroDog and DogWatch cannot do the job alone, though. We are not cops and we are not vigilantes. Unless the city puts some teeth in its bylaw enforcement and puts the bite on these irresponsible holdouts' back pockets, we will not be able to achieve the culture of compliance we seek. RRDOG currently has a Three Pillar Approach proposal being considered by city staff: education, environment and enforcement. In response to council's mandate, we have provided a comprehensive framework and detailed recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of the Richmond Dog Management Strategy. Staff will present its response to RRDOG's February presentation to councillors at 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 24 at the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services committee meeting at City Hall. RRDOG encourages everyone concerned with dog-related issues to attend. In addition to saving taxpayers many thousands of dollars, the Three Pillar Approach will go a long way toward making our communities friendlier, safer and environmentally cleaner, and what is not to like about that? See you on the 24th.

Deborah Packer is a director of RRDOG and chairwoman of EnviroDog.

RICHMOND PET PAGE

So you've got a puppy. Now what?

second of two parts on bringing home puppy.

by Shelley Smith

Today is the day your puppy is coming home. If you're the first-time puppy owner, a trip to the pet store can be overwhelming. So many options: collars, leashes, toys and house-training paraphernalia: an amazing assortment of things that you don't really need. The essentials usually include a cheap, adjustable, nylon or fabric collar, a regular six-foot leash, two flat-

bottomed bowls — the heavier the better — a crate (not a pen) to make house-training easier, and a few chew toys. Avoid the extendable leash, the harness, the puppy house-training pads (unless you live on the third floor and up in an apartment building), the plush expensive stuffed toys and that beautiful dog bed. The bed will not fit into the crate anyway and probably won't make it to adulthood, the puppy house-training pads only make house-training a two-step, confusing process for your pup, the plush toys will have a lifespan of about an hour, and that fancy collar will be outgrown in

less than a month. When your pup is older and finished house-training and growing, you can spend the real money on all those things.

Now that you've got the essentials, it is time to bring home the puppy. Hopefully, your puppy's arrival coincides with your vacation.

When you first bring home the pup, take him directly outside to the place that will be his toilet area before you take him inside. We want to set precedent on where the potty area is — and it is not inside on a puppy pad — but rather outside. If he does go, and if it was a long car ride, he probably will have to, praise him. I am talking really, truly, praise him — get down on the ground and praise him for all that you are worth. It is essential in house-training that the first potty trip is outside and not inside.

When you first bring your pup inside, have him on a leash and walk him through the various rooms in your house, giving him enough time to sniff. This simple act shows your pup that it is your house and you are the leader in your house. It will also prevent him from having an accident because you're there to see him squat and you can quickly pick him up and rush him again to the potty area. This exploration of your house should be a happy, positive experience with no reprimands — just exploration. Once the initial investigation is over, introduce your pup to where his food bowl, crate and toys are.

Resist the urge to invite all your friends and family over to meet your new puppy on this first day, as we don't want him to be overwhelmed, and overwhelmed. Throughout this first day, take your pup outside to his potty area frequently. The name of the game in house-training quickly and efficiently is to avoid all accidents inside the home and to do that you must watch your pup like a hawk; always praise him for going outside.

For the first week or two, keep your puppy's crate next to your bed at night. He will probably cry that first night, but a reassuring hand draped over your bed will go a long way in comforting your pup. Depending upon his age, he probably will not be able to go all night without a potty break. If your pup is between eight and 10 weeks of age, take him outside during the night and again early in the morning. After 10 weeks of age, most pups can sleep the night through — but only up to a maximum of seven hours. All puppies need to

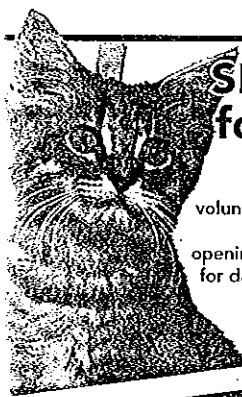
It is not necessary or advisable to play with your pup all day; in fact giving your pup some down time to sleep and be by himself in his crate during the day is beneficial. Many new puppy owners spend every waking moment with their pup for the first two weeks, then head back to work full time and wonder why their puppy is having a hard time adjusting to them not being around. Spend time with your pup playing and bonding, but put him in his crate for a nap frequently. Whenever your pup wakes up from a nap, as well as after all meals and play sessions, he will need to be taken outside to the potty area.

It is much easier in house-training if you set a feeding schedule. Most vets recommend feeding a growing, young pup three times a day, but check with your vet and breeder to make sure. Do not free-feed (leaving food in his bowl all day long) your pup. Rather, have set meal times, and if the food is not finished, take it away. But always keep water available. The only time your puppy does not need his water is when he is sleeping in his crate at night.

Teach your pup now that jumping up serves no purpose. It may be cute when he puts his front paws up on you and you pick him up now, but it won't be when he gets older. All you are teaching him is that he should put his front paws on you for attention. When he does this, do not give him any attention whatsoever. He only gets attention when "four are on the floor."

It is not too early to start socializing your pup to the outside world on walks, or training your pup. A puppy as early as seven weeks of age can learn simple commands. You will want to wait till your pup has had his second set of shots before taking him around unknown dogs, but you can, and should, walk him around your neighbourhood to meet and greet everyone and everything, immediately. Do not keep your pup in isolation, waiting till all his shots are finished. The risk of your pup getting a disease while out on a walk around the neighbourhood is very low in comparison to the risk of your pup becoming fearful. Whatever your pup will be exposed to when he is an adult, he needs to be exposed to now. Raising a great dog starts in puppyhood, and it is a lot of work, but the end result is worth it.

Reach certified dog trainer Shelley Smith at



SPCA Seeks Volunteers for New Animal Centre

Do you love animals and want to make a difference in your community? The BC SPCA is looking for volunteers aged 16 years and older to join us at our exciting new SPCA Education and Adoption Centre opening in Richmond in August 2007. Volunteers are needed for daytime and early evening shifts to help care for kittens, cats, puppies, small dogs, rabbits and small animals.

OVERNIGHT FOSTER HOMES ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR PUPPIES AND SMALL DOGS.

Volunteer Orientation Sessions are being held on Saturday, July 28th at the new SPCA Education and Adoption Centre

7791 Steveston Highway (corner of No. 3 Road).

DOG ORIENTATION
10 a.m. to 12 noon

CAT ORIENTATION
12:30 to 2 p.m.

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR THE ANIMALS

To register for an orientation session (or for more information), please call the BC SPCA at (604) 681-7271.

