

CAPITOLA SCOOP

Capitola Dog Owners Group Newsletter

WWW.CAPITOLA.COM/DOGS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2001

Upcoming Events!

- **Thurs FEB 8th 7PM Tentative City Council**
Public Hearing on Dog Beach & Park Access City Hall Council Chambers.
PLEASE ATTEND!
- **Mon Jan 29th** Deadline for letters to council.
- **Fri Feb 2** Free Behavior & Training Wkshop, 10 AM Pet Pals 475-7284
- **Sun 18 Feb 10:30AM** Rispin Mansion Cleanup
- **Sun Mar 18 10:30AM** Clean Up Hooper's Beach



Inside this issue:

Therapy Dogs	2
Lefty Poochiano barks out	2
Local Vet advocates for dogs on the beach	3
Carmel Dog Beach Clean & Pristine	3
C-DOG Membership Application	3
Training Tips Who is C-DOG?	6

Dog Task Force

The Capitola City Council unanimously voted to create the Dog Task Force (DTF) on Sept 28th, 2000. All of the City Council members were generally supportive of opening Hooper's beach and some parks to limited hours & seasons for dog access. They ask that the task force be formed to work out the details for a test pilot program to allow dogs on the beach and parks.

The DTF is charged with the goal of creating a detailed set of recommendations to allow dog owning citizens access to public areas such as the parks and the beach. The public hearing will be tentatively held at the Thursday Feb 8th City Council Meeting at 7 PM. The meeting packet deadline for letters is Monday January 29th.

The following are the recommendations that were voted on for the city council:

- 1) Allow dogs in Esplanade Park, Peery Park, Jade Street Park, Monterey Park and Noble Gulch but not in Hidden Park on leash unless otherwise posted .
- 2) Allow dogs on the whole Capitola Beach off leash during posted hours of before 10 am and after 4 pm in between October 1 & May 1
- 3) Further study of dog Park feasibility with regard to location, improvements and budgeting for the July 2001- June 2002 budget.
- 4) Allow special dog events such as dog trials and sports in the parks by permit only.

Failed recommendations are:

Allow dogs on the beach between the five months of May 1 and September 30 during limited hours and Allowing
(Continued on page 2)

10 Things You Can Do for Dogs in Capitola

Write or Call the Council Let the council know that you are a Capitola resident and you support dog parks & beaches. Just a few sentences focusing on responsible ownership. Write council@capitola.com
Read letters online www.capitola.com/dogs

Attend Public Meetings The City Council meeting & public hearing will be held on Thursday Feb 8th at 7 PM. There will be 2 public hearings. Letters must be received 1 week prior to the meeting to be included in the council members packets.

Join C-DOG to support our education, public relations, newsletter, web site, training workshops, promotion and coastal clean up days. **"C-DOG Rocks!"**

E-Alert News List Send your email address dogs@capitola.com for alerts & updates.

Be Vocal Talk to dog owners, neighbors & friends while you are out walking. Ask dog owners to write to the Capitola City Council.

Clean Up Clean up is the easiest and most effective thing we can do to impress the council, and to be considerate neighbors.

Volunteer for C-Dogs C-DOG organizers need help with our training classes, newsletter and other events. Give a little, gain a lot.

Peer Patrol Patrol your neighborhood. Pick up after others and share plastic bags.

Support Our Friends

• Pet Pals • Kitty Fields, trainer • Surfriders • Monterey Bay Dog Training • Nob Hill • Gayle's Bakery • Webspinit • Larsen Sails

Attend Training & Behavior Workshops

We sponsor training and behavior clinics monthly at nearby locations. Training with other dogs is a great way to spend quality time with your buddy. Check the C-DOG web-site for dog training resources.

Therapy Dogs lend a helping paw

A substantial body of evidence, documenting the benefits of the human canine relationship, continues to grow. We have learned from research that caring for our pets promotes relaxation, reduces anxiety, and contributes to our survival after a catastrophic illness. We know that some dogs act as “silent therapists” for their human companions, always willing to listen, and never passing judgment on what is shared. This role has been shown to be especially valuable in homes where family members, including children, are undergoing important, and sometimes painful transitions. Dog are said to act as “social lubricants,” often acting as a catalyst for conversations, when the dog and human are out on a walk together in public.

There has been increasing awareness, particularly over the last thirty years, of how canine assisted activities and therapy might be utilized to improve the quality of life, as well as the treatment outcomes, for individuals, particularly for those unable to access animals on their own. Historically, animal assisted activities and therapy have distinguished themselves in the following manner. Animal assisted activities refers to the ‘meet and greet’ programs in which animals visit patients in hospitals, or residents of institutions, providing individuals with an opportunity to pet and socialize with a friendly ani-

mal and handler. Animal assisted therapy is the deliberate and systematic use of animals in professional care plans, to help patients reach defined treatment goals. Typically they are used to help normalize situations, socialize, calm or motivate patients. Dogs are particularly well suited to this work because of their long history of living and working with humans, and the ease with which we are able to train them. Some populations that have benefited from canine assisted activities and therapy include: nursing home residents, including Alzheimer’s patients; survivors of domestic violence and abuse; prison inmates, including juvenile delinquents; hospice clients and their families; special education students; autistic children; and both acute care and rehab hospital patients. Dogs are included as a treatment modality in numerous disciplines including social work, counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, recreation therapy, education and nursing.

If you want to learn more about this work please feel free to contact the author at: www.futurefamilies.org/therapydogs.html or contact the Delta Society at www.deltasociety.org Next month the author will share with readers her personal story of why she became involved, and what she and her dog Angus do during a typical visit.

This article was written by Pam Lemke a local nurse-midwife and certified Delta Pet Partner.

(Dog Task Force Continued from page 1)

dogs just on Hooper’s Beach instead of the whole beach.

Hooper’s Beach, we feel would be an adequate amount of space for dogs. However, Community Service and Animal Control Officer, Bruce Ink, thought that dogs would run over onto Main Beach creating an enforcement problem.

Do you feel that Hooper’s Beach would provide enough space for dogs to run? If you are a Capitola resident, we would like to hear from you in email to dogs@capitola.com

Capitola Dog Task Force Members

• **Chair: Captain Joe Granata**, Capitola Police Dept. staff, non-resident; • **Vice-Chair: Brett Graessle**, Resident, Parent, Dog Owner & Intel Marketing Manager; • **Bruce Arthur**, Capitola City Council, Resident & Dog Owner • **Eric Mitchell**, Capitola Police Dept. staff Community Service Officer & Lifeguard Capitan, non-resident; • **Bruce Ink**, Capitola Police Dept. staff, Community Service Officer, Animal Control, non-resident; • **Ed Morrison**, City of Capitola Public Works Department staff, resident; • **Nancy Green**, Resident, Business Owner & Dog Owner; • **Sandi Pensinger**, Resident, Business Owner, Web Developer & Dog Owner; • **Janis Ahlf**, Resident, generally does not support dogs access to parks & beaches, • **Scharlene Fulmer**, Resident, does not support dogs access to parks & beaches (Notes: Mr Arthur abstained from voting on beach and park issues. Ms. Fulmer & Ms. Ahlf resigned before the committee work was completed.)



Responsible Dog Ownership: Scoop du Jour Lefty Poochiano On Picking Up

C-DOG asked Mr. Lefty Poochiano how he responds to the ten worst excuses for not picking up after your dog.

I don't want to.

I'd be up to my elbows in it if everyone were like you! Loose da attitude!

I don't have a bag

Grab a bag before ya leave the house! Ya can recycle a bag just as easy!

I'm in a hurry

How did ya find time to walk your dog

in da first place?

It's dark out

Grab a flashlight, shed some light on it.

It's in the bushes

So, I'll play a violin for ya while ya clean it up.

Its dirty

Get some of dat hand sanitizer stuff.

I wasn't watching

Keep an eye on ya dog or else!

I have a bad back

Get a poop scoop, dupe! Save your back and the environment!

It's not my dog's poop!

How old are ya? Everyone's gotta woiik together like a big family.

I don't like being told what to do

If ya can't stand peer presha try a little pet presha, stash ya trash!

The dog ate it

Well ya going to have to deal with it sooner or later!

Local Veterinarian Advocates for Dogs on the Beach

I am writing to express my strong advocacy for dogs being allowed on the beach in Capitola. Even if they only have access to the small area to the north of Capitola wharf, this is overwhelmingly a good idea. As a veterinarian and dog owner myself, I can sympathize with the need for authorized places for dogs to run. There are so few areas that allow dogs within the city limits!

Countless studies have shown the widespread health and emotional benefits from pet ownership. I feel very strongly that with the proper guidelines in place, pets and people can coexist remarkably well. I understand that the main arguments against dogs on the beach

are aggression and waste management. The latter is not really a valid argument, since people that use the beach are also prone to leaving waste, and yet people are allowed to use public beaches. With regards to health concerns, there is an extremely limited potential for any health risks associated with exposure to dog feces. Furthermore, dog owners should be responsible for removal of their own dogs' feces, and perhaps there are groups of people that would voluntarily make sure the beach is clean every evening. As far as dog aggression is concerned, this is also fairly limited to an extremely small percentage of dogs. If an animal bites a person, the dog owner is cited

and is simply prohibited from returning the dog to the beach.

Dogs need to run to relieve their own stress. Exercise is a proven stress reducer in people, and it serves a similar purpose for pets, in addition to other more well known health benefits.

I hope that you will seriously consider allowing beach access to our canine companions in Capitola.

Aglaia Cardona, DVM

Dr. Cardona is a Capitola resident and practices emergency medicine at the Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital. She and her dog, Emma would love to be able to run on the beach.

Carmel Beach Caters to Dogs & Tourists Alike *by Molly Ording*

I am writing because this weekend we traveled to Carmel. I wanted to stop at the beach and return to the place where my Mother had ridden her horse wildly up and down that beautiful beach some 70 years ago! I was so delighted to see 20 or 30 dogs who love what we all love about the beach...the air, the water, chasing, running, swimming, meeting new friends and engaging their owners in fun, social interaction. I was struck that if, on this most spectacular of all California beaches, dogs were allowed...welcomed... that the beach was pristine and surely a reflection of responsible,

caring dog owners we surely could do the same on our "Hooper's Beach" on a smaller, more limited scale. Walking my dog around Capitola and many other places has afforded me the opportunity to meet so many people that I would have not chatted with and gotten to know. I am constantly reminded how this "pet parent" interchange is so like our parental exchanges regarding our children...the pride, the interest, the commiserating, the exchange of information and support i.e. getting to know others and having them get to know you. For many in the community, these interchanges are

vital and important...the elderly, newcomers (such as I), children, people from other countries...all...are enriched by this fun social sharing and getting to know each other as well as our beloved pets. I have had personal experience with regard to pets and the elderly and know the deep value of these relationships as well as just the casual interchanges that takes place on the street, in a park or on the beach. Join us in supporting C-DOG for our dogs sakes!

Molly & her husband Micky, Capitola residents & parents of four, own an active Dalmatian named Seamus.

Join C-DOG Today! Membership Supports Education

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Dog's Name(s) _____

Dog Breed(s) _____

Send a check for \$20 or more to:

C-DOG Memberships

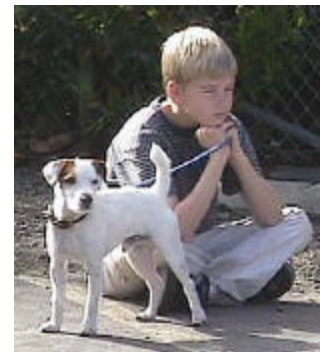
500 Oak Drive

Capitola, CA 95010

We promise privacy.

Yes! I'd like to help out with

training workshops & events.





C-DOG
www.capitola.com/dogs
500 Oak Drive
Capitola, CA 95010
Email: dogs@capitola.com

Mail to:

*"Making the community richer through
responsible dog ownership"*

City Council Meeting

Public Hearings, 7 PM

Thurs. Feb 8

Thurs. Feb 22

Please Attend!

Training Tips

Socialize your dog. Introduce your dog to many different types of people and situations so that he or she is not nervous or frightened under normal social circumstances.

Train your dog. Accompanying your dog to a training class is an excellent way to socialize him and to learn proper training techniques.

Be a responsible dog owner. License your dog as required by law, and provide a good diet, plenty of exercise and regular veterinary care, including rabies vaccinations and pick up after your dog. For everyone's safety, don't allow your dog to roam.

Teach your dog appropriate behavior. Don't play aggressive games with your dog such as wrestling, or tug-of-war. Set appropriate limits for your dog's behavior.

Err on the safe side. If you don't know how your dog will react to a new situation, be cautious. If your dog may panic in crowds, leave him at home. Avoid stressful settings.

Attend the C-DOG Behavior Workshop at 10 AM on Friday Feb 2 at Pet Pals.

Who Is C-DOG?

Capitola Dog Owners Group is a volunteer run community association that exists to provide responsible Capitola dog owners with:

- Access to beaches & parks in Capitola
- Education on responsible dog ownership with web site, newsletter & training workshops
- Capitola community enhancement
- Providing input for local government about dog parks and beaches.

Dog ownership facilitates community and reduces crime, but dogs need to exercise, play and socialize with people and other dogs. Dog owners have fewer options now for exercising their pets and they are becoming vocal about it. Please join us to meet the challenge.

www.capitola.com/dogs

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."

-- Margaret Mead