



A Howlin' Good Time OFF-LEASH NEWS

JANUARY 2016

Annual River Park New Year's Celebration

**Thursday, January 1
11:30 - 1:00pm**

Bring your dog to ring in the New Year at River Park. We'll be set up at the benches near the bulletin board (a.k.a. Cat's Park).



Winter Clean-up January or February TBA

This one will be weather-dependent so keep an eye on email and social media for our call for helpers.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

If for some reason you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

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New Year's Day at River Park

Enjoy more fun this holiday season. Join us for the River Park New Year's Day pawty!

Drop by Cat's memorial site (the benches and fountain) in the middle of the park between 11:30am and 1:00pm on January 1.

Enjoy some cookies and spiced tea while socializing in front of the decorated Christmas trees. Pose for a picture or two that will be shared in the next newsletter and on social media.

Don't miss out on this pawsome holiday opportunity! Just ask your furry best friend and they'll tell you there aren't enough community events that include dogs. See you there!



Winter Park Clean-up

Unfortunately winter can be hard on River Park in more ways than one. Although numbers are down during cold weather months, there seems to be too much left-over poop. We can only speculate as to the reason this occurs each year.

Because caring for the park is year-round, please join us to address winter accumulation of dog poop in the park. We'll wait for a Chinook to melt away snow and then with short notice, we'll send out a call for helpers using email, Facebook and Twitter.



Pawsome Times at the 2015 Canine Christmas Event!

With holiday tunes cheerfully playing in the background, two- and four-legged park users came to enjoy each other's company at the 17th annual River Park Canine Christmas gathering held at one of the picnic sites in Sandy Beach on Saturday, December 5.

The weather was mild and with a blazing fire, signs of winter were scarce. It was a great opportunity to socialize and have light refreshments.

Most dogs were happy to sniff butts and hang out around the fire, while others were treated to a leashed walk through Sandy Beach under gently cloud-lit skies.

As SantaPaws watched, the dogs were on their best behaviour, and each hoped they made the good-dog list. By a show of smiles and wagging tails, a howling good time was had by all!



No-bake Healthy Dog Treats

Please note the recipe below, published in December, should have included a note to use peanut butter that does NOT contain xylitol as a sweetener. Xylitol and dogs is a toxic mix. Thanks to **Susan S** for the reminder!

Whip up these tasty treats in just 15 minutes. Makes approximately 20 walnut-sized balls.

1 cup pumpkin puree (not pie filling)
1/4 cup peanut butter (no xylitol as **xylitol is toxic to dogs**)
1/4 cup milk
3 cups old fashioned oats, divided

Mix pumpkin puree, peanut butter and milk until well-combined. Gradually add 2 1/2 cups old fashioned oats.

Using a small cookie scoop, roll the mixture into 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inch balls, forming about 20. Roll balls in remaining 1/2 cup old fashioned oats, pressing to coat.

Cover and place in the refrigerator until firm, about 1 hour.

Treats can be kept refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

Posted by Chungah On on
[Damn Delicious](#)



What's in a Dog's Name?

When a dog comes into our lives, they may already have a name. Some people may choose to keep the name for consistency while others, for various reasons, may want to change it.

If it's the latter case, so begins the process of putting a lot of thought into finding the perfect moniker for the furry family member.

While there are many sources that claim to be the best authority on this subject, click [here](#) to find out the American Kennel Club's 150 favourite picks, the top trendy names, the most popular names from 2015. The article also features a helpful list of suggestions and considerations.



Paws for Thought

This month, learn about some dogs that hold Guinness World Records!

The highest amount of tennis balls held by one dog's mouth

A female named Brandy is the smallest dog

The oldest dog was from Australia

Most balls caught by a dog's paws in one minute

Zeus is the tallest dog



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

This section features some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy.

Music therapy for pets from the [PetMD website](#)



Dr Sophia Yin shares some helpful tips to deal with separation anxiety



Read some info about child safety with dogs from [Veterinarypartner.com](#)



Recognizing Your Dog's Body Language

Here are some great illustrations created by Lili Chin. Lili's love for Boogie, her Boston Terrier led her to find effective positive reinforcement training and dog-training methods.

In this fun series of cartoons, she shows common signals that dogs use to communicate with other dogs and people.



Illustrations by Lili Chin | <http://www.doggiedrawings.net>