

A Howlin' G OFF-LEASH NEWS



JUNE 2017

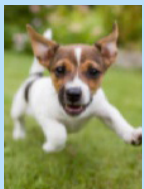
River Park Clean-up Saturday, June 17 10am to 2pm

Enjoy a walk with your dog while you pitch in to help.
More details on this page.



Recall Training Saturday, June 17 11am to 2pm

Please note participation is limited.



Registration closed June 8 but you can still observe the session.

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

Candice



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Wolf & David, Steve, Shirley, Rosie and GiGi

River Park Spring Clean-Up

Join us for a clean-up in partnership with The City of Calgary! On event day at the south end of the park, there will be tents, tables and displays from our group, The City of Calgary as well as other guests including [Marda Loop Veterinary Centre](#) and [X92.9](#).

- Who: You and your dog
What: River Park clean up
Where: River Park (stop by table to sign the volunteer sheet and be assigned an area)
When: Saturday, June 17 | 10am to 2pm (come for part or all of the time)
Why: For everyone's benefit
Note:
 - Bring gloves/bags or a pail/shovel
 - Wear suitable clothing and footwear
 - Dogs are **NOT ALLOWED** to join owners cleaning the escarpment
Check-in: Sign-in at the Friends of River Park table (results sent to the City of Calgary)

Please spread the word. Hope to see you there!

Note: Dog Recall Training (registration required) will also occur on the same day starting at 11am. A large fenced area will be set up on the east side of the spine trail near the parking lot.

If you missed out on registration, you can still observe the session and pick up a tip or two. You might be able to squeeze into a class if there's a no-show or last minute cancellation.

Dog Behaviour

Some people bring their leashed dog to off-leash parks. Their dog may be leashed for various reasons such as injury, poor recall or reactivity. Please help all dogs feel welcome as off-leash areas are shared spaces. Your understanding is appreciated.

Thanks to **Kathleen H** for finding this information to share with our group.

'It's okay, my dog is friendly...'

No it's NOT okay! Just because your dog is friendly doesn't mean all dogs are - please remember:

Never let your dog run up to a dog on leash- they could be scared or become reactive.

Try to respect other owners and their need for space.

Not all dogs want the added attention or intrusion.

If you have no voice control over your dog off leash then keep them on.



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Weed Killer Use and Dogs

Do you think about herbicide use and the potential of harm to our dogs? You may not spray your yard, but dangers may be as close as your neighbour's lawn or a nearby green space. Read [this article](#) to learn if residuals pose a danger. Thanks to **Robin M** for sharing with our readers.

Just a cautionary note related to herbicide use in Calgary. Signs are often posted in the neighbourhood by The City of Calgary to warn people about spraying herbicides in public spaces such as parks.

The City of Calgary can only advertise on city-owned spaces. A posted sign doesn't necessarily mean the area itself was sprayed, however be aware that spraying has occurred somewhere nearby.

Large white A-frame signs typically contain a sample of the 14" x 12" yellow signs that indicate details such as dates and the type of product used.

Many of us have concerns for the well-being of people and animals and worry about the herbicide being ingested through breathing or absorbed through skin. With the dogs and children being lower to the ground it's even more reason to be vigilant.

So far, no one has reported any sign sightings this year, but it's good to be mindful. To safeguard the health of you and your dog, keep your eyes peeled for signs and read content carefully. Use your nose (the smell is quite strong so it's a dead give-away) and steer clear of sprayed areas.



Green Initiatives

Scooping droppings is probably the most unpleasant tasks we all face as dog caregivers. Yes we all have to do it so let's consider some ideas for making the task more pleasant while helping the environment too.

Green Cart Program

Many residents have received their green carts as part of The City of Calgary's composting initiative.



Did you know pet waste is a perfectly acceptable item to deposit? For many of us with dogs that use the yard as their bathroom, we can scoop the yard and place the poop inside the green cart. While some of us will continue to use a bag, keep in mind the bag can't be thrown in the cart. Perhaps you may consider going one step further to help the environment by skipping bags all together and use a shovel or large scoop to collect droppings. There are also many pooper scooper gadgets available for sale such as a spade/tray, rake/tray or spring-loaded jaw styles designed to make the task easier.

Other pet-related items that are also acceptable in green carts are fur, kitty litter, pet food and treats.

[Click here](#) to check out a full list of appropriate green cart items.

Poop Bags

If you use bags to scoop poop, have you ever considered the type of bag you use and even the type of packaging it comes in? For people who want to be eco-friendly, check out [these bag products](#) reviewed by [Dogster Magazine](#).

Does anyone else have some pet eco-friendly tips to share with fellow dog people? If so, please email them to riverparkoffleash@gmail.com.

Thanks to **Cynthia W** for suggesting environmental initiatives for a feature this month.



Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month:

Found this Psychology Today [article](#) by [Stanley Coren](#) citing personality differences between cat and dog owners



[Great info](#) to help children (or adults) with the grieving process when a pet dies



Here's [an article](#) with suggestions about how to break up a dog fight from [Dr Karen Becker](#)



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

Some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy!



[Using music to calm your dog](#) - an interesting read by Natalie Wilson on [The Doginton Post](#)



[10 Things You Can Do to Make Vet Visits a Better Experience](#) from [AVMA](#)

