

A Howlin' Good Time

OFF-LEASH NEWS



Snow-hearty dogs come in all sizes



APRIL 2018

Calgary Pet Expo Spruce Meadows Equiplex April 21 & 22

Find pet products, service providers, entertainers, clubs and organizations that cater to pets.



Special Days and Events

On the second page of this newsletter, check out the list of special animal-related days and events in April



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Our Suggestions for the Best Park Pick-up Lines

It's been a crazy bad winter for snow accumulation. We just can't get a break in the weather so that our group can clean up accumulation of another sort — unattended poop left by park users.

Leftovers are literally just a load of crap! We can understand that once in a while someone misses picking up, but River Park's dirt-o-meter reading is sounding the alarm!

While some people intentionally ignore their responsibility to clean up after their dog, most times it's just a matter of inattentiveness such as people chatting to others, looking the other way momentarily or watching dogs play. This winter, people were likely watching their footing. Whatever the case, the poop still needs to be picked up!

Some of us stoop and scoop after others and say nothing; others struggle finding something less accusatory to say than, "Hey, need a bag?" For sure it's not always easy to approach this subject.



In my experience picking up at the park for many years, I like to give people the benefit of the doubt. Comments are better received if they're neutral and well-intentioned.

And a little humour certainly goes a long way. I also take a few moments to help locate the poop. I've only had one instance where someone wasn't receptive so I just cleaned up and chalked it up as a bad experience. Better to try than not!

So here are some great ideas to help spin a pick-up line with fellow dog people at the park:

"Pardon me. Is that your dog having a poop?"

"Oh my, I believe your dog is leaving a mess behind."

"Looks like your dog is depositing a load over there."

"May I bring to your attention... your dog is pooping."

"Oh look... I think that's your dog having a dump."

"Hi there. Looks like you're on clean-up doo-ty."

"I believe it's your turn to pick up."

"Attention please... Clean up on trail two!"

"Wow, your dog would win the prize for heaviest load!"

"Whoa, that would make a mess of someone's shoes."

"Yikes! That one looks like a two-bagger. Let me know if you need an extra bag."

"Too bad there's no prize for largest park deposit but your dog would certainly win!"

"Goodness! How much does your dog eat to have output like that?"

"Your dog just dropped a load big enough to bury a small child."

Depending on the situation, you could follow up with: "May I offer you a bag?" and "Thanks for helping us keep the park clean." Best wishes with your chosen approach and thank you for dooing your part and more.



A Fond Farewell

Penny had very sad news to share with the off-leash community.

She wrote: **Jasper** my 12 year old Golden Retriever can best be described as a social butterfly.

Jasper loved all people and other dogs. Every time we walked in River Park, he would cuddle up to the owner of the other dog and want to be petted.

When he died suddenly on January 25, 2018 it was very devastating for us. He was our perfect pet and family member.



Many Faces of the Fountain

The River Park fountain is in good hands with **Lynn M.** and **Shirley P** from the Friends of River Park team who maintain it each year. In spring they clean and paint it and in winter they clean and cover it. Lynn also loves to give the fountain a fresh new look for each seasonal event. It's got to be the dressed fountain within any Calgary park!

Many thanks to these ladies for taking such good care of it.



* a note of Thanks *

Big thanks to Lynn M, Nancy E, Blaine K, Neil & Sue G, Steve S and Candice L for doing a mini clean-up with pails and shovels at River Park on March 11. It helped make the park much cleaner and set a great example of regular park users with dogs who care for the park.



Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month:

Some [dog funnies](#) found on [BarkPost](#)



New way to [memorialize your pet](#) from [Gravity-B 3D](#) via CTV News



A [story](#) about how a microchip helped reunite a dog and her person from [The Dodo](#)



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

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

[Dealing with dogs and hearing loss](#) from [petmd.com](#)



The [American Kennel Club](#) gives their opinion about [dogs chewing water bottles](#)



Read about [separation anxiety](#) from [veterinarypartner.com](#)



Special Animal-related Days and Events

There are so many animal- and pet-related celebrations and initiatives to recognize in April. While some are focused on awareness, some are informal.

The American Veterinary Association has published [a huge list](#) of dates and events. Check them out so you can plan to acknowledge and observe the ones that are important to you. Following are a few.



Prevention of Lyme Disease in Dogs Month

National Heartworm Awareness Month

National Dog Bite Prevention Week®
April 8-14

National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
April 8-14

National Pet Day
April 11

National Pet ID Week
April 15-21

International Guide Dog Day
April 25 (last Wednesday in April)

National Kids & Pets Day
April 26

World Veterinary Day
April 28 (last Saturday in April)

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day
April 30