



# A Howlin' Good Time

## OFF-LEASH NEWS

Family Fun at River Park



**MAY 2018**

### River Park Clean-up Sunday, May 6 | 9:30-11am River Park

Enjoy a walk with your dog while you pitch in to help. Sign in at our table - south end near the parking lot.



### Dog Fest Spring Fling May 12 | 10am - 4pm Triwood Arena

Bring your dog to enjoy this indoor/outdoor doggy play-date, tradeshow/ market-place, portrait studio and fundraiser for Pals Pets. Admission is FREE.

### UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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## River Park Clean-up

Please join our off-leash community members for the first clean-up effort at River Park in many months.

The weather this past winter has thwarted each of our attempts to hold a park clean-up. On a few occasions when the weather wasn't so cold, a small group of us chipped out leftover poop. Now that all of the snow has melted, we know the park is in need of a serious clean-up. Can you help? Following are the details:

- Who: You and your dog  
What: Poop clean-up  
Where: River Park  
When: Sunday, May 6 | 9:30 to 11am  
Why: For everyone's benefit  
Note:
  - Bring gloves/bags or a pail/shovel
  - Wear suitable clothing and footwear  
Check-in: Sign-in at the Friends of River Park table at south end near the parking lot and be assigned an area (results sent to The City of Calgary)

Please spread the word. Hope to see you there!



## \* a note of Thanks \*

**Shirley P** and **Lynn M** are at it again! On Friday, April 13, they took advantage of a slight break in the weather and did another mini clean-up in River Park. On behalf of park users, thanks for taking initiative and scooping leftovers.

## Water Fountain Update

Return of water service to the River Park fountain is just around the corner.

In a joint care effort between our team and The City of Calgary, sometime during the first week of May, **Lynn M** will remove the protective covering and place signs on it about the status of water.

Water service is contracted out by The City of Calgary and is on a rotational system that is highly dependent on weather and which quadrant they start in. It may be delayed because the schedule is off to a late start as they have to ensure there's no chance of frost before turning on the water.



The re-appearance of the fountain is so exciting for our dogs. It's just a bit hard for them to figure out why they can't get a drink.

Please tell them it won't be very much longer!





## Park Use Reminders for Dogs and Us

Spring is FINALLY here! Now that the snow has melted, we can expect park use to increase. With this in mind, here are a few notes to consider when walking our dogs in the park.

### Fountain

Once the fountain is uncovered, please watch your dog and curb its urge to pee on it. Urine is hard on the paint and a bowl with urine poses a health hazard when dogs drink from it. The odour is also unpleasant for people who stop to have a drink. Our team attempts to keep it in good repair (cleaning, painting, storing) so we could use your help.

### Bag Dispensers

Our group fundraises, purchases, stores and stocks bags in the park. Please reduce costs and the need to fundraise/refill more frequently - only take bags as a back-up system for times such as when you've run out or forgotten to bring an extra bag.

### IKEA Bag Dispensers

Clean bag donations are most welcome. If you see a bag full of poop inside one of the dispensers, please remove it and deposit it into one of the three dumpsters in the park.

### Grass

Please try to stick to the gravel trails and give the grass a chance to establish.

### Avoid a Ticket

Although bylaw presence is infrequent, remember:

- The north end of the park and the parking lot at the south end is on-leash
- Make sure your dog is licensed
- Carry a leash (even in the off-leash areas)
- Ensure your dog is under control

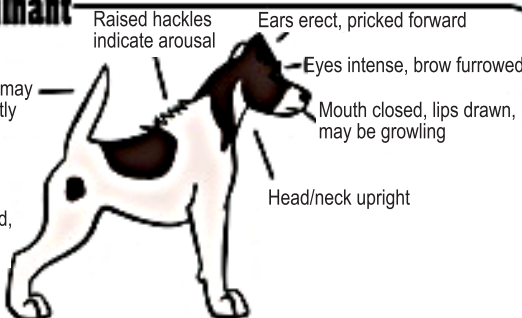
Thank you for helping to maintain a safe and respectful culture in the park for everyone and every dog to enjoy.

## Basic Signs of Canine Behaviour

Check out these illustrations that demonstrate dog behaviour. You may know your dog well, but it may be harder to tell signs in another dog. It's always good to be aware of your surroundings - to watch

your dog and other dogs to ensure you can intervene should a situation escalate. Thanks to **Kathleen H** for sourcing these images to share with members of the dog community.

### Aroused/Dominant



Tail upright, stiff, may be wagging slightly

Body standing tall, leaning forward, stiff/frozen

Raised hackles indicate arousal


Ears erect, pricked forward

Eyes intense, brow furrowed

Mouth closed, lips drawn, may be growling

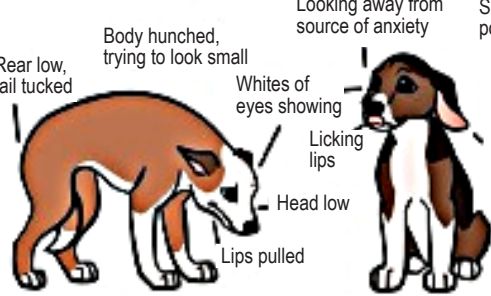
Head/neck upright

This dog is intensely focused on something (a ball, a cat, intruder etc.). He may be preparing to rush up to another dog to play or attack. If confronting another dog, he is transmitting the message, "I am high-ranking."



These dogs are trying to establish dominance over one another. If one dog does not break the tension, a fight could erupt.

### Anxiety/Stress



Rear low, tail tucked

Body hunched, trying to look small

Whites of eyes showing

Licking lips

Head low

Lips pulled


Ears back

Looking away from source of anxiety

Sitting (non-threatening position)

Also look for:  
yawning  
pacing  
panting  
shaking as if wet  
trembling  
whining  
sniffing ground  
urinating

Any dog that fears for its safety will bite. The more stressed a dog is the closer he becomes to his bite threshold. Not all dogs enjoy the dog park. If your dog shows signs of stress, consider bringing them back at a less busy time.



The dog on the left is saying, "I am no threat!", but the other dog may not like having its face licked! A dog using this type of greeting likely lacks confidence.

## Paws for Thought

Some interesting finds to share with everyone this month:

[Read a story from The Dodo](#) about a dog that "pays" for treats he receives



[From Mother Nature Network](#) a heartwarming story about a deaf, partially blind dog that kept a child safe in the Australian wilderness



[Great tips](#) on finding a dog walker found on the [AKC website](#)



[Learn from NBC News](#) how researchers are developing an artificial intelligence system that thinks like a dog



[An article from Science Daily](#) about the extent of cross-breeding between wild wolves and domestic dogs



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