



A Howlin' Good Time

OFF-LEASH NEWS

The beauty of spring in River Park



JUNE 2019

River Park Clean-up Saturday, June 22 9:30am to 11:30am

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



Pet-A-Palooza

Sat, July 27 | 10am - 4pm

Sun, July 28 | 11am - 4pm

200 Barclay Parade

FREE

A pet-friendly event.

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

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

Candice



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📘 [riverparkdogs](https://www.facebook.com/riverparkdogs)



Give River Park a Paw Up

Bring your dog and join us for another bi-monthly River Park clean-up effort in partnership with The City of Calgary at **River Park on Saturday, June 22 from 9:30am to 11:30am.**

Check-in at the Friends of River Park table set up near the parking lot. Besides dog poop, we'll also address all other garbage that doesn't belong.

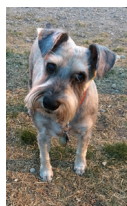
Note: Bring gloves/bags or a pail/shovel and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Come for part or all of the time. See you there!

A Fond Farewell

Big Neil recently shared news that his "good guy" **Riley** left their family and crossed Rainbow Bridge on May 3.

Everyone knows their pack to be River Park fixtures as they rarely missed a walk during his lifetime. Riley accompanied Big Neil and his son Jeff on every clean-up effort and event that was held over the years. He was a friendly dog — a great canine ambassador that loved people and all the good sniffs at the park. He enjoyed the park so much that he often didn't want to leave when it was time to head home.

Rest in peace sweet Riley.
We'll miss you good guy!



Enter to Win a Dream Home

When plans for their dream home fell through, a Calgary couple turned adversity into a win-win by creating an amateur pet photo contest. The prize is a \$3 million 4400 square foot dream home in Mount Royal, Calgary, Alberta.

Faced with mounting debt and a significant tax bill, Teresa and Bill also channelled their love of animals to create this photo contest. It's an opportunity for someone to acquire an amazing home, has potential for animal charities to share a gift of \$250,000, and Teresa and Bill will no longer be burdened with enormous debt.

Contest participants simply submit a great photo of their pet along with a \$35 entry fee. Those who can't afford the payment can submit a 1000-word essay along with their pet's photo. All participants are eligible to win, although to be successful and in compliance with contest rules, there must be 100,000 paying entrants.

For more information and contest entry rules, please [visit their website](#) and [see CTV news coverage](#).



Taking Care of the River Park Fountain

A few days before the May long weekend, **Lynn M** and **Kate C** from the Friends of River Park Leadership Team kindly uncovered the fountain, cleaned it up and gave it a fresh coat of paint. Their timing was perfect as it coincided with water service resuming.



Each year since its installation in 2007, the water fountain is one of the features that draws people and dogs from all over the city to River Park. Indeed how lucky we are to have one.

The fountain is part of a memorial site that is the legacy of a young woman with an extraordinary love and compassion for all animals. Cathryn "Cat" Margetts was the proud and successful proprietor of Barking Mad Dog Service. She had an exceptional rapport with all creatures, and her "customers" adored her.

On May 25, 2004, Cat lost her life while trying to rescue the dogs and cats trapped inside her burning home. During a final rescue attempt, her beloved German Shepherd, Adami followed her back into the blazing house. Cat succumbed to smoke inhalation with Adami at her side, and Max T Moose in her arms.

Family, friends and the community joined forces to create a lasting tribute to this courageous woman, who will be remembered as a loving daughter, sister, and friend.

The current fountain is the third we've had since 2007. The first fountain was stone but could not stand up to the amount of urine. The second was also stone and was vandalized beyond repair. The third and current fountain is metal and similar to other fountains in Calgary parks.

The fountain requires ongoing maintenance. Damaging rust is the result of two main reasons: dog urine and weather.

Despite the efforts of Cat's parents and our team to clear urine-saturated snow and ice during the winter and a few attentive dog owners who keep their dogs from urinating on it year-round, the fountain takes a fair amount of abuse. One day, it will need to be replaced... again. And IF we are able to get a replacement, it will be our fourth. If need be, we'll fundraise. In the meantime, please help by keeping your dog from peeing on the fountain.



Pet-friendly Alternatives to Lawn and Garden Chemicals

Warm weather means everyone has started to groom their yards and gardens. While it's easy to use pesticides, herbicides and harsh fertilizers, it means you and your pet are likely bringing them into our homes where they can be inadvertently absorbed or inhaled by us and our furry family members.

Many stores carry natural lawn and garden products but the word "natural" can be misleading. If in doubt, visit the manufacturer's website for more information and carefully evaluate details about the ingredients contained.

Here are some Do-It-Yourself natural alternatives that are safe for you and your pet, as well as the environment.

Garlic Pesticide Spray

Chop an entire bulb of peeled garlic. Place in a blender with two cups of water. Puree until smooth and refrigerate for 24 hours. Strain,

discard pulp and add three litres of fresh water. Pour mixture into a spray bottle to mist plants.

Salt and Vinegar Herbicide

Dissolve half a cup of salt into one cup of hot water, then add one cup of white vinegar. Pour into a spray bottle. During application, be careful to spray only on weeds as the salt isn't good for soil or other plants.

Signs of toxin exposure

Contact your veterinarian if you notice the following signs in your pet.

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Seizures
- Muscle tremours
- Excessive drooling
- Constricted pupils
- Increased heart rate
- Lack of balance
- Breathing difficulty

Best wishes for good health for you, your pet as well as your yard and garden.

Paws to Read



Check out Oprah's list of 17 great books for dog lovers:

Sophie • Emma Pearce

Huck • Janet Elder

Oogy • Larry Levin

Born to Bark • Stanley Coren

Katie Up and Down the Hall • Glenn Plaskin

What a Difference a Dog Makes • Dana Jennings

You Had Me at Woof • Julie Klam

Dogs and the Women Who Love Them • Allen & Linda Anderson

Through a Dog's Eyes • Jennifer Arnold

The Dog Who Couldn't Stop Loving • Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

Dog on Rocks • William Wegman

Dogs • Catherine Johnson & William Wegman

Mutts • Sharon Montrose

Nose Down Eyes Up • Merrill Markoe

Our Story Begins • Tobias Wolff

Dog Years • Mark Doty

Woof • Lee Montgomery

