



WALNUT CREEK DOG OWNERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, No. 2 June 2008

“WCDOG – Fostering community spirit through people, pets and parks”

Hurrah! The dog park at Heather Farm has reopened

Big thanks to the city for the renovations and improvements made during the closure of the dog park (aka Wag World). Note that the weekend and holiday opening is now 8 AM in consideration of the neighbors.

As the dogs and their owners gather again to enjoy and share this lovely space, it is a good time for each of us to ask ourselves, *“Am I a dog park person?”*

- Do you enjoy meeting new people?
- Are you respectful of other people's training methods and points of view?
- Do you enjoy watching dogs interact and are you committed to monitoring your dog's behavior and picking up after your dog?
- Are you able to move around the park?
- Are you willing to leave children at home if they are under the age of eight, or emotionally not ready for a dog park?
- Are you willing to limit the number of dogs you bring to three?
- Do you regularly exercise and train your dog outside of the park?
- Are you willing to not play ball, chase or tug if it will affect another dog adversely?
(thanks to Bonnie Brown-Calli)

Together, we make the dog park a fun, safe, and clean place to enjoy.



Dog Park Seminar will be repeated in the fall

The city's first **Dog Park Seminar**, co-sponsored by WCDOG and the city on June 7th, was such a success



that a second seminar will be offered in early fall. Local master dog trainer Bonnie Brown-Calli [left], owner of [Dog Dynamics](http://www.dogdynamics.org) (www.dogdynamics.org) and the featured speaker at the seminar, showed videos of dog interactions to enliven her

introduction to dog language and expert advice on handling sticky situations at the dog park and elsewhere. Muller Veterinary Hospital Vet Dr. Jill Iwata and tech Shannon Thomas introduced dog first aid (and raffled off a great pet first aid kit), WCDOG board member Joan McClure shared important information on pet emergency planning (PEP), and Michelle Leighton showed off lots of fun toys and tools carried by Ygnacio Plaza's Sports Basement. Keep an eye out for further info on the next seminar – a low-cost, enjoyable way to get to know and care for your dog better.

WCDOG wants you!

Coordinate or just help with the Sunday evening clean ups at the dog park at Heather Farm. Help man the WCDOG booth at Animals on Broadway and other community events. Help out at pet emergency training events. Take photos for the newsletter. Help make our motto a reality. Contact Joan McClure (joan1979@astound.net) or Judy Hirabayashi (jhirabayashi@inverness-research.org) if interested.

ThankYouThankYouThankYou !!!

**** Sports Basement (Ygnacio Plaza) ****
Peets (Ygnacio Plaza)
Hi Tech Burrito (Ygnacio Plaza)
Your Safety Place (Dublin)
UPS (Encina Grande)

The Container Store
Floreli Florist
Postal Annex (Ygnacio Plaza)
FedEx Kinko (Mt Diablo Blvd.)
The Balloon Man
Bill Grant (for video)

Annabelle's
Encore Theatrical

AND the city's maintenance crew! (Be sure to thank them.)

We welcome other sponsors. Any business that supports WCDOG will be featured in our newsletters throughout 2008. We are planning for a **recognition wall** to recognize our corporate, business and private sponsors. Please check our website for details.

WCDOG board elections are scheduled for July

Ballots will be distributed to WCDOG members via email and at Heather Farm and San Miguel parks.

Did you know?

- **Your membership contribution will help fund shade structures and other amenities at Wag World and enable WCDOG to share information of interest to local dog owners** via the newsletter, flyers, etc. (we printed 700 copies of our last newsletter!)
- **If you ever need to call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for a consultation, be sure to get the case number. Then your vet will not be charged again if he or she calls again.** The ASPCA Poison Control Center provides consultations 24 hours a day at 888-.426-4435. Because it receives no funding, the fee for a consultation is \$60. The regular Poison Control Center of California (800-222-1222) cannot advise on animal cases.
- **Our own WCDOG website www.wcdog.org is a great source of information and of links to other websites for dog lovers.** Check out (and save for emergencies) the recently added list of local pet friendly hotels.
- **It is rattlesnake season.** If your dog is bitten, immediately give her Benadryl (25 mg [sic] per 25 pounds), then get her to a vet ASAP. Many vets don't carry rattlesnake serum, so go to a pet emergency hospital or call your vet to see if they have it. Consider getting your dog a rattlesnake vaccine shot if you often go out in the hills
- **The latest edition of Bay Area Consumer's Checkbook** (available at newsstands and at www.checkbook.org/subscribe/sfb.cfm) **summarizes pet owner ratings of local vets for quality and cost.**

JOIN WCDOG OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! If you would like a voice in how the dog park is run, join WCDOG. **Annual dues of \$20 are good through June 2009.** Use the Membership Form below or download the form from our web site www.wcdog.org

Fill out this form and return it with a check for \$20 made out to *WCDOG* to:
2008 Annual Dues (Voting Member), WCDOG, 1867 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Box 120, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Name _____

Dog(s) Names _____ Dog(s) breed _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

(Be assured that contact info will be used only for WCDOG communications.)

- I don't wish to be a member but add me to your mailing list
- I wish to donate an additional \$ _____ towards dog park expenses
- This donation is in memory of/in honor of my pet(s) named _____

