



Bark Park's Talking Dogs

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Off Leash Dog Parks— What You Need to Know

Off-Leash Dog Parks or Paw Playgrounds are a necessity now for our 4 legged friends. Since we spend so much more time away from home and we are living more and more with smaller yards or none at all. These green fenced areas allow unleashed pups the opportunity to run free safely. Dog Parks also allow dogs to socialize and play with each other, something that dogs who live alone with their families don't otherwise get to do. Playing with other dogs is very beneficial in that dogs are naturally



pack animals and they really enjoy being with each other. If your dog has never been around other dogs or seems nervous around other dogs on leash, it does not mean that they will not enjoy the dog park. Just be cautious and carefully supervise your dog on his first trip to the Dog Park. If you are concerned, seek the help of a qualified

trainer to help you evaluate your dog. See this website for a list of dog friendly trainers www.tbaft.com When taking your dog to the Dog Park, it is best to wait until the area around the entrance gate is not crowded so that your dog has a chance to enter without being intimidated by the other dogs rushing to greet her. It is also important that your dog be off leash for the greeting process, this puts everyone **Cont. on Page 3**

Feeding Your Dog People Food

It is a common misconception that we shouldn't feed people food to our dogs. As with most things it is ok if done in moderation and under the right circumstances. In fact during training, using people food for treats really helps our dogs to stay motivated, which means they learn faster. It is also ok if it is being prepared as a balanced diet. In the case of training, people food should only be given in small amounts at a

time. Especially if your dog is not used to it at all. Some of the best training treats are cheese, hot dogs, and bits of cooked chicken or liver. All of these foods have a highly attractive smell to dogs which helps them to stay focused on who has the treats and what they will need to do to get the treats, such as sit politely. In light of the pet food recall last year many people are considering home prepared diets for their dogs. There is a wealth of information available on the topic on

the internet and in books. The biggest drawback however is that it is time consuming and labor intensive to keep up with. There are plenty of excellent commercially prepared diets available today, just use caution and be a label reader. No matter whether you decide to use people food as an occasional treat, for training or a regular diet, never feed your dog onions, grapes, raisins or chocolate, all of these are toxic to our dogs.



Ask a Trainer?

Why is a crate the best tool for housebreaking?

In general, dogs will not soil where they sleep. Dogs are also den animals meaning they prefer to sleep in enclosed, secure areas. In order for the crate to be of the most use in housebreaking, it needs to be only large enough for the puppy or dog to be able to stand up

and turn around in. To accommodate growing puppies it is best to block off some part of the crate with boxes or other partition. This will reduce the possibility of pup sleeping in one area of the crate and soiling another. Keeping your puppy or dog on a regular routine of trips outside and keeping them crated when unsupervised is critical to

the success of this program. Eventually with consistency as the puppy or dog gets used to only toileting outside and being rewarded for it, it will have no desire to toilet inside. Upon success the crate will no longer be necessary for toilet training, however, many dogs come to prefer their crates as a place to rest and have their own space.



The Marvelous

Crate

Go here for more information. <http://www.therealjackrussell.com/advice/crate.php>

“Colt” minutes after I got him out of the shelter.



“Encourage everyone you know to adopt a rescue and to spay and neuter their pets.”

Success Story - I have been living with and training dogs all of my life. Since I was in pre-school, caring for and feeding the family dog was my responsibility and I cherished it. It's no wonder that I now make my living with dogs and continue to champion for them since they cannot speak for themselves. Over the years I have lived with mixed breeds and Purebreds alike and I have loved them all in their own way. I have also been very involved in dog sports, so I needed Purebreds in order to compete in AKC events which have the most opportunities for competition. Until last year all of my dogs had been purchased from reputable breeders. Last year I wanted to get into Agility which is something I have wanted to do for a long time. Good agility dogs are very expensive and I felt that since I was a novice at this it would be crazy to spend money on a dog that I might not train right. So I went on a mission to find a Border Collie through Border Collie Rescue. Through BC Rescue I found out about Colt and first saw him on an Animal Services website. It was love at first sight. At the time there was a quarantine at the shelter and I couldn't get Colt for 3 weeks. When I finally got him on Dec. 27, 2006 he was petrified, he was really sick and he was only about 8 months old. I brought him home and nursed him back to health physically and emotionally. It was a long road. After about 7 months we were finally able to walk him on a leash, up to that time all he did was cry and cower down not even knowing what a leash was. After enough practice with the leash, our persistence paid off & he finally was comfortable with learning new things. Agility training was our next step. He shut down again emotionally but not as bad this time. We continued to build his confidence and play with him as much as we could. Then one day I tried Agility again and he loved it! It was like he knew it all along! On July 4th weekend 2008 we will be competing in our first Agility trial together. Stay tuned to the next issue to find out how we do!

Rescue Dogs Make the Best Pets

Every day in this country, unwanted dogs are put to sleep. This is truly a national crisis. This doesn't even include the dogs from Hurricane Katrina. Many people think that dogs in shelters or in need of new homes are all mixed breeds.

When in reality one out of every four dogs in rescues or in shelters are Purebred. So no matter what kind of dog you are looking for, you can most likely find one in rescue somewhere that needs you. If you are not currently in need of a dog

you can still support this mission in many ways. You can participate with rescues. You can spread the word about how bad the crisis of unwanted dogs really is. You can encourage people to spay and neuter their pets. You can educate people about why spaying and neutering is so important. You can **Cont. on Next Page**



Off-Leash, continued from front page.

on equal footing in the dogs' eyes and make things much less tense for everybody. Dog parents should always supervise and clean up after their four-legged friends, and all dogs should be on a leash when outside of the Paw Playground area. Most Dog Parks have pet pick-up stations throughout the play areas with bags and waste receptacles. There are also cooling stations with dog level fountains and



wash areas in case your pooch gets too dirty. In Hernando and Citrus Counties dogs are not allowed in County Parks on or off-leash. However Citrus has a paid membership dog park. Visit this link for more information. www.barkcentraldogpark.com

In Pasco County there are three Dog Parks. Follow this link for more details www.pascocountyfl.net/pubser/comser/animal/A%20link.htm#dog. In Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties you will find the best selection of Dog Parks with fenced, off-leash play areas. Check out this website for a list of those Dog Parks and others in Florida. www.floridapets.net/dogparks.htm Here in Hernando County our first dog park is under construction. No opening date has been set yet.

“Colt” and “Cricket’s” Favorite Finds

Bright Bites Daily

Dental Chews



These star shaped chews come in three flavors, Cinnamon, Peppermint and Spearmint and three sizes,

Small for dogs <15 lbs., Medium for dogs 15-40 lbs. and Large for dogs >40 lbs. Bright Bites are 100% soluble making them highly digestible for everyday use. Bright Bites were developed by veterinarians

and have a unique shape and texture designed to promote good oral hygiene by controlling plaque / tartar and preventing gum disease. For more information and to locate a dealer near you , go to www.brightbites.com.



Bright Bites Spearmint Flavor



Eryn, Garet and “Cricket” with “Colt” Today– A Confident Happy Dog who loves to dress-up, play with toys and do Agility!

Rescue Dogs, Continued from previous page.

encourage people who just want a family pet to adopt a rescue instead of buying from a breeder. Rescue organizations and groups are growing in size and number daily and they all need help. They need financial help, they need people to foster, evaluate, and transport dogs. They need people to screen applicants and follow up with their references and do home visits. They need

behaviorists to work with dogs coming out of bad environments that can be successfully re-homed with a little help. The need people to handle administrative duties, adopt-a-thons and fund raising. The list goes on. There is room for everyone to find something to do to help the dogs. After all they can't speak for themselves and it is all about them. If you would like to find out how you may

be able to help locally or nationally, check out the following websites and open your heart to help the dogs who need you most. www.dogsindanger.com , www.petrescuesite.com , www.petfinder.com , www.naturecoasthumanesociety.org , www.hsus.com There are hundreds more but these are some of the best I have found.



This Newsletter is Produced and Sponsored by Bark Park Dog Daycare and Positive Training

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Cage Free Dog Daycare

**Where Your Dog Feels at Home When You Have to Be Away
 Force Free Positive Training**

Where It's Always Fun to Learn How to Behave

E-mail: questions@barkparkdogdaycare.com

**Look for this sign
 on County Line Rd.
 in front of Bark Park**



Did You Know?

...that one female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years?

...that failure to spay or neuter pets results in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary euthanizations every year?

...that 1 out of every 4 dogs in shelters and rescues around the country are Purebreds?

...that Each Day in the United States, animal shelters are forced to destroy 30,000 dogs and cats?

...for every human born there are 7 puppies born?

...that if you want to help either financially or through fostering, transport, etc., there are hundreds of rescue efforts who will gladly accept your offer?

...for more information visit www.dogsindanger.com or www.thepetrescuesite.com or www.petfinder.com



WHY DAYCARE FOR YOUR DOG?

- Dog's are social, pack animals and there are proven benefits from spending time with other dogs
- Daycare reduces boredom, eases separation anxiety and destructive behaviors that may occur when a dog is left home alone with nothing to do
- After exercising, playing, and socializing throughout the day your dog will be healthier, happier, and peaceful in the evenings
- You're having an open house, your carpets cleaned, pest control, etc. and your dog needs a place to go
- No more coming home to an overexcited dog, destroyed furniture, or messes on the floor.

At Bark Park Dog Daycare, we are committed to making your dog feel at home when you have to be away. We are a cage-free facility. We offer daycare, overnight boarding and force-free positive training. We are located near Spring Hill/Brooksville on Hernando/Pasco County Line Rd. between US 41 and the Suncoast Parkway. We are open Monday—Friday from 7 am—6 pm. Please feel free to stop in and see our facility anytime during normal business hours. Please see our Website for lots of pictures a video and even more information.

www.barkparkdogdaycare.com



“Sabra” watches “Honey” and “Izzy” on the Dog Walk at Bark Park

Some of the things your dog can look forward to during a day at BARK PARK...

- *A 2 1/2 Acre Dog Playground that is Cage & Crate FREE and Completely Supervised
- *Safe, Clean, Dog Friendly Environment
- *Fun Engaging Play with Other Dogs and Qualified Professional Bark Rangers
- *Indoor Climate Controlled and Spacious Outdoor Play Opportunities
- *Doggie Swimming Pools, Treadmill and Play Areas
- *Doggie Games...Fetch, Frisbee, Tug-o-War, Find-It, Agility, FlyBall, Obedience
- *Quiet Restful Periods on Choice of Plush, Comfy Beds, Couches and Cots
- *Lots of Toys and Tons of Love

See your best friend soon!