

# Omaha Dog Park

www.omahadogpark.org

Fall Quarterly



## Patron Appreciation Day!

Thank you to everyone who stopped out to see us at our 1st anniversary celebration the weekend of August 24-26th. The dog park advocates enjoyed meeting our patrons and hearing your thoughts about the dog park. There were many great suggestions brought to our attention, all of which we will take note of and discuss in future meetings. We will be able to provide you an update of your suggestions in our next newsletter or at our next general public dog park meeting. We were so excited to meet everyone and hear how much the community appreciates and cares about the dog park. Your generous donations raised \$1425 for the park! These donations will be used towards improving the dog park. The ODP is currently focusing on adding water lines and water fountains. Thank you to everyone who visited us during the celebration and for your generous contributions!!! The dog park thanks you!

## What Happened to the Money I Already Donated?!

One of our most frequently asked questions is, "What happened to all the money I ALREADY donated???" We understand people's concern with what has happened to money we've been raising over the last several years and want to assure you it's still there! Below is an email we sent in response to one park-goer's concerned inquiry-

Much of the money is still in savings while we try to coordinate improvements for Hefflinger with the city. We have money earmarked for water fountains (which are EXPENSIVE), the plumbing fees to cut into a water line to install the fountains (also EXPENSIVE), an information board at the entrance so we can get rid of the laminated signs, filling in the sink holes, and to make the park handicap accessible (city is requiring this one). If there's money left over after all of that, we'd like shade/shelters and maybe nicer poo bag dispensers along with a very large and ongoing supply of bags.

The 124th and Fort location is still zoned for a dog park, but I don't think the city is still considering it as a location since they decided on Hefflinger instead. Basically, the entire operation got moved to Hefflinger, which is good because at this point we still wouldn't have had the funds needed to fence the entire Fort location and that's something the city wouldn't pay for.

We are by no means hoarding money, we're just waiting to be able to spend it. The city originally told us that they would be able to schedule the fountains, filling in the sink holes, and the handicap accessible stuff this summer. Well, they got behind on higher-priority projects elsewhere, so we're now being told they might not get to it until next year. It's very frustrating, but we keep on them about it.

As for what some of the money has been spent on, at this point just small items such as the website, the PO Box, PayPal fees, insurance, etc... items necessary to bring in donations. Money has also been spent to complete the fencing at Hefflinger and to make the metal signs that are currently hanging around the park. We spent money on t-shirts and frisbees that we hand out in exchange for donations, so the

cost for them is covered, plus we make some additional money for the park.

We try to stay pretty frugal so that we have money for the big stuff (like fountains) later. The flyers, brochures, and laminated signs you see are typically paid for out of our own pockets and not the organization's. Same goes for the treats we hand out at events... I personally bought \$50 worth of treats at a pet store for the Eggstravegganza this year and we're still handing out what's left over (in unopened bags). I also paid out of my own pocket to print and laminate the signs regarding food and cleaning up after your dogs that you saw at the park this spring. We sometimes get donated items from stores that we can use too, which is nice. Mulhalls was kind enough to provide us with a few truckloads of mulch for the entrances this April, although it is pretty much all washed away now. You are more than welcome to attend any of our public meetings. Expenses are usually discussed at

our quarterly public meetings

## Executive Committee Member-Public Information Officer

My name is Maggie. I'm the pretty labrador/rottweiler mix in the photo.

The silly labrador is my brother Dex. Our mom (Jamie Krussel) got us from the Humane Society about three years ago. I was only 4 months old then so I don't remember much, but Dex was over a year old already and had developed a strong obsession with tennis balls! Soon after she adopted us, mom came across a group called the Omaha Dog Park Advocates. They were trying to raise money to open up an off leash, enclosed dog park in Omaha. She thought that was a great idea and began following their progress. She watched as they raised money and worked with the city to get Hefflinger Dog Park open. She even made some donations and came to fundraisers. Then she saw how great the park was once it was open and decided to get involved to help improve it even more. She and the other Advocates work really hard to educate other dog parents about the park and to get the city to approve improvements. Lots of this information can be found on the Advocates' website ( [www.omahadogpark.org](http://www.omahadogpark.org) ). My mom is always adding information to it.



We LOVE the dog park. As soon as we see mom putting on her rubber boots or old tennis shoes, we suspect she is going to take us there. Then we see her put on her baseball cap and we know we're going, so we get all excited and wiggly. When we get to the park, mom lets us off the leash. I head straight for the nearest dog and try to entice it to play chase. I sometimes look ferocious when I play, but I make sure I grin and bow a lot too so other dogs know I'm just playing.

(cont. from front)

Dex prefers to search for contraband tennis balls and throw them at people. He usually finds them too. He's probably already tried to play fetch with you more than once. You can't forget him. Black lab, red halter, REALLY slimy dirty tennis ball. I'm sorry he messed up whatever pants you were wearing that day. Mom won't play fetch with him in the park since it can cause dog fights. She says you should just tell him 'no more' and shrug your empty hands up in the air if he throws a ball at you. That's what she does. Don't feel bad about not playing fetch with him. Mom plays fetch with him all day long at home. When we leave the dog park, Dex and I are so relaxed and feel good from all the exercise we get. I'm so glad we have such a great park to run around in and to make new friends in. Aren't you?

## What's Your Dog's Sign?

The next time your pooch digs up the herb garden or bolts out the backyard gate, go easy on him-it might not be his fault. Misbehavior could simply be in the stars. Here's a look at how your dog's astrological sign influences his-or her-behavior.

Aug. 24-Sept. 23

Virgo - The perfect pet

Loves to be told what to do and is happy to help with household chores, especially cleaning the table. Can be jealous and a one-person dog, as well as a bit of a hypochondriac who's unhappy when its routine is disturbed. Loves luxury and cats but doesn't like small children. Best human companions: all signs but Scorpio



Sept. 24-Oct. 23

Libra - The egalitarian

Loves to be pampered and expects to be treated just like its human companions: If the human sleeps on a bed, so does the Libra dog. Gentle, well-mannered, affectionate, charming. Best human companions: Leo, Gemini, Aquarius

Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio - The dog's dog

A natural leader with excellent endurance. Easily excitable and known throughout the kennel for its sexual prowess, the Scorpio is vain and hypnotically charming, has strong likes and dislikes, and boasts an excellent memory. Best human companions: Scorpio, Cancer



## Great Taste, More Wagging

Poor Kodi. All the 31-year-old handsome blonde with thick, lustrous hair wanted to do was hang out with his online friends and drink a few beers. The only problem was, Kodi is a dog.

"I got tired of drinking boring, tasteless water all day, every day," Kodi, an Akita, growled on his MySpace page, Beer for Dogs. So his parents, Jamie and Kevin Miller of Napa, California, decided to create doggy-style suds that Kodi and his pals could enjoy. The result? Happy Tail Ale - a nonalcoholic, noncarbonated, beef-flavored beer made from artesian water, malted barley, all-natural meat drippings, glucosamine, and vitamin E.

Kodi's beer was such a hit with the neighborhood dogs, the aptly named Millers contracted with Napa-based Dog Star Brewing Co. to make it in large batches. You can now find Happy Tail Ale in six-packs at pet stores or at [www.beerfordogs.com](http://www.beerfordogs.com) for \$8.99.

-Vicky Uhland, Alternative Magazine, September, 2007, Page 26.

## Omaha Dog Park Calendar

September 22, 2007

3-5 pm

Wag 'N Wine at Corkscrew Wine & Cheese

September 30, 2007

Walk for the Animals - NE Humane Society

November 14, 2007

General Meeting at Con Agra (90th & Fort)

## Our Goals

We'd like more park amenities! How about a gazebo for those hot, August days! Can you help? All donations are tax deductible!

- Doggie Bag Dispensers
- Doggie Drinking Fountains
- Landscaping
- Benches and Shelters
- Agility Equipment
- Handicap accessible walkway
- Signage

Individual monetary donations can be sent to:

Omaha Dog Park Advocates

P.O. Box 8613

Omaha, NE 68108

Please make a donation via PayPal or checks payable to: Omaha Dog Park Advocates

## Nominate an Officer

To be eligible for nomination, the person has to have attended 50% or more of the general meetings. Nominations can be made online thru the website or at the November meeting.

## Donate to the Omaha Dog Park

PO Box 8613 Omaha, NE 68108

enclosed is my tax deductible donation to ODP of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

(phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

please make checks payable to Omaha Dog Park Advocates

please contact me by

phone

e-mail

mail

**Thank You!**