



# THE SCOOP

Citizen Canine Dog Owners' Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2 Spring 2006

## Home Sweet Home?

If you live in a condominium or apartment complex in the City of Victoria and own a dog or two, consider yourself extremely fortunate. For many dog owners, the search for accommodations can be compared with the search for Atlantis. You hear accounts from people, who know people that have seen it but yet, for some reason you just can't find a place.

For apartment hunters, many property management firms in Victoria do not allow dogs. I knew this girl who moved out here from Ontario with her old, arthritic black Lab. Seeing everyone with a dog, she figured finding a place to live would be a breeze. She quickly learned otherwise. Every ad she called in the paper said, "I'm sorry, we don't allow pets", or "we don't accept dogs that large." Despite her best efforts to supply a letter stating she would pay for any damages incurred by her dog, or the offer to supply reference letters, the only lodging she could secure was a house divided into apartments and a landlord who seldom put any rent money back into the property. With so many people with dogs she couldn't figure out where all these dog owners were living. Sure they can't all be owning their own home!

Think condominium complexes are more accommodating to dog owners? Think again. About a year ago, I jumped on the bandwagon and decided to buy a place of my own. I didn't think it would be that difficult to purchase a condo in a building that



*Clark, a 7 year old Lab/Doberman cross lives with Natalie and Kaila*

allowed pets. After all, my sister managed to secure a condo in, what dog owners would refer to as Shangri-La. Yes, my sister's building has no pet restrictions and all occupants live happily together amongst, Shelties, Whippets and "little white dog." Sadly after a year of searching for my own Shangri-La, I had to compromise on a building that accepted dogs no larger than 12 pounds.

Dog owners in the City of Victoria can sometimes feel like third class citizens and when it comes to finding accommodations, the feeling can be far worse. Unfortunately there is not much dog owners can do except make a lot of noise and hope someone will give them a break.

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*plus*

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**Suzanne Clothier Seminar**

# May 2006

Editor: Joanna Pettit  
Production: Jaimee Gadsden

Contributors: Colin Carson,  
Nicky Lavergne, Mary Anne  
Leason, Julia Nowosielksa

**Citizen Canine Directors**  
President, Colin Carson  
Vice President, Helen Zeilstra  
Secretary-Treasurer, Joanna  
Pettit  
Director at Large, Mark  
Hawkes

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PO Box 23078, BC V8V 4Z8 or  
by email to  
[newsletter@citizencanine.org](mailto:newsletter@citizencanine.org)

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Citizen Canine Dog Owners  
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Our goals are to promote and  
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**Citizen Canine Dog Owners  
Association**  
Cook Street RO,  
PO Box 23078,  
Victoria, BC. V8V 4Z8

Citizen Canine's Third Annual Everybody and Their Dog Walk turned out to be another big success. Dodging the spring showers helped. So too did the support of our many volunteers and corporate sponsors. Through the generosity of participant walkers, we were able to raise funds for Pacific Animal Therapy Society (PATS). In turn, we thank PATS for all of their important community efforts.

June 1 will mark a year since the six parks in Victoria were opened for very limited hours of off-leash activity. This phase appears to have gone smoothly; there have been very few problems encountered. The city is planning to do some evaluation of these parks to determine if the off-leash activity has changed park usage and to see if the hours are working for dog owners. The goal is to balance the needs of all park users. The evaluation will probably take place this summer and will consist of user surveys as well as surveys of residents living near to the six parks. Once this information has been gathered the city will begin to look at Phase Two of the Paws in Parks program, which will open some sports fields for shared use. This will likely be a more contentious move. To date, there has been little to no feedback to the city about the Paws in Parks Programs. As part of the evaluation, the city will look at correspondence from the public. Dog owners who use Victoria parks for off-leash activity should contact the city to give feedback on how the program is working for them and what they would like to see take place in Phase Two. Contact the city electronically through the dog feedback link:  
[dogfeedback@city.victoria.bc.ca](mailto:dogfeedback@city.victoria.bc.ca)

Although we haven't been provided with the results of the most recent Capital Regional Parks survey, we were delighted with the very positive results of the CRD's 2004 Visitors' Survey, which clearly indicated that:

## President's Message



1. The majority (79-89%) of park users do not have a problem with dogs in the parks.
2. The majority (51%) of park users feel that parks are an important place to be with a dog.
3. While dog feces is a concern for many park users (including dog owners!), at Beaver/Elk Lake Park nearly twice as many people were concerned about horse feces.
4. Dog control ranked 7th in the list of park users' concerns.

One of the most interesting (and conveniently ignored) results of the 2004 Visitor Survey was that almost half (46.6%) of the park visitors surveyed wanted more off-leash areas for dogs. In fact, provision of more off-leash areas was ranked as the 4th most important management priority for Thetis Lake Park and Beaver/Elk Lake Park.

As responsible dog owners, Citizen Canine supports the concept of leashing dogs in areas with sensitive or endangered wildlife and vegetation, but only as a last resort if public education programs fail to achieve the necessary compliance.

We are pleased to hear from recent reports that the CRD plans to start

enforcing existing bylaws regarding cleaning up dog feces (something we have been asking them to do for several years), and we would even argue that a \$50 fine is not enough. Like many of the survey respondents, we have also been asking the CRD for doggy bags and more garbage cans to deposit them in. Indeed, it seems ironic that they are willing to spend \$30,000 on surveys that mostly just validate what dog owners had been telling them all along, but steadfastly refuse to invest in simple solutions to the main issue identified.

To date, Citizen Canine's repeated offer to work with the CRD to educate dog owners about responsible dog ownership in the parks has not been accepted. In the meantime, we will continue to educate dog owners and model responsible behaviour through events such as our just-completed 3rd Annual Everybody and Their Dog Walk!

Colin Carson

## Continued from page 1

For apartment complexes, there have been a few exceptions made by property management firms to allow dog owners to take up residence. With letters of reference from previous landlords and offers to pay any damages, there are some property management firms that will make the exception; but none who will go on record. Condominium owners are encouraged to join their strata council and support any pet friendly rules and bylaws.

If you are in the market for an apartment or condominium check out Citizen Canine's on-line forum at [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org). There is a place to post if you're looking for accommodation or have dog-friendly rentals available.

## JOBS FOR DOGS

Want to find new ways to keep your dog active and have a great time together? Look for our upcoming series of articles on dog sports—Jobs for Dogs. Whether it's agility, flyball or canine freestyle...or tracking, retrieving or something else, we'll scope it out for you and give you the lowdown. Coming next month, a feature on flyball.



*Niya and Noid (both Chinese Crested dogs) live with Sheri*

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Last issue we asked you to send us photos of your dogs and we got some fabulous pictures. Thanks to Chez Terry's Pet Food, we had two prizes to give away. Two winners were drawn from the entries: Clark, a 7 year old Lab/Doberman cross who lives with Natalie and Kaila, a one year old English Springer Spaniel, who lives with Vicki. Take a look through this issue to see some of the photos we received. And keep snapping pictures to send to us. We'll include them in upcoming issues of The Scoop and on our website, [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org)



*Four dogs and three cats (Bed hogs) live with Gail*

# In Memory of Liam



Liam at the beach at Dallas Road with his Vizla friend, Eco

Liam McGuire will be missed by his friends (both two-legged and four-legged) who frequented the dog park at Dallas Road. Liam spent much of his time at the park walking dogs, and on the beach, collecting items for his art. He always had time to chat up anyone willing to discuss dogs or the meaning of life. As for the dogs, they all seemed to be drawn to Liam as Liam was to them—imparting each dog with a galleta (cookie in Spanish), a rub, or bit of his wisdom.

Liam believed that in order for the dogs to live in harmony, their owners must set an example, and he did this by introducing one dog owner to another, creating many lasting friendships. He even touched the lives of those who did not own dogs but who used the park as an opportunity to get their

“dog fix”. Liam made an extra effort to spend time with the elderly who sat at the park in hopes of patting a dog. By example, Liam taught both people and dogs alike how to be better in life. We are all grateful for having the opportunity of knowing and learning from him. The dog park will never be the same without Liam.

Many people have expressed interest in purchasing a City of Victoria park bench in his memory. Our intention is to have the bench located in either the Dallas Road dog park area or Beacon Hill Park. The cost of the bench, including a plaque, is \$2500 for 10 years. Anyone wishing to donate to the Liam McGuire Memorial Fund can do so at any branch of Coast Capital Savings, until August 31, 2006.

A notice will be posted to

advise where and when the bench will be placed. In the event that we are unable to raise the \$2500 bench cost, the funds collected will be donated to a local animal shelter in Liam’s name. For further information, please contact Jo-Anne and Eco at 380-6056 or at the dog park, or talk to Gayle and Cassie or Sterling and Daisy at the dog park.

*Each issue we plan to write about one of Citizen Canine’s supporting members. Do you know someone that we can write about? Or would you like to be featured in this column? If so, contact us at [newsletter@citizencanine.org](mailto:newsletter@citizencanine.org)*



# Ask an Expert

*My Jack Russell Terrier, Spot, is a sweet little thing and I love him to bits. But his barking is driving me up the wall and I'm afraid of getting evicted. Short of supplying earplugs to the neighbourhood, what can I do?*

Barking is something we have bred dogs to do through selective breeding; their ancestors the wolves very seldom bark. Some breeds of dogs are more vocal than others: terriers, herding breeds and some sporting breeds top the charts. Dogs bark to communicate so it's not realistic to expect to eliminate barking altogether. You can, however, reduce barking to a bearable amount.

The first thing to figure out is what your dog is trying to tell you with his barking? Here are some possibilities and potential solutions:

***Please pay attention to me!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

Ignore your dog when he barks



Lil Joey, a Dalmatian lives with Dara

for attention - turn your back on him. After he is quiet for a few seconds, reward him with attention.

Be sure to notice when your dog is quiet, and give him quiet attention at those times - but not so much that he starts to bark with excitement!

***Get off my territory - right now!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

This is a drive that's hard to manage, so don't give your dog the opportunity to become territorial. Keep him away from windows facing the street, and supervise him when he's in the yard.

If your dog starts to bark at some one passing by the house, bring him indoors. Train him to come to you for a treat instead of barking.

***I have nothing to do - barking keeps me busy!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

If your dog stays outdoors all day, bring him inside where he's more likely to stay quiet. Provide interactive toys to keep your dog busy, such as a stuffed Kong (visit [www.kongcompany.com](http://www.kongcompany.com) for ideas). Find a dog walker to take your dog out for a stroll around mid-day.

Don't allow your dog to bark non-stop. If he keeps practicing like this, he'll just become a better barker!

***I'm afraid - please go away!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

Look for opportunities to socialize your dog with everything and everybody you can think of. Ask every new person your dog meets to offer a treat, to make it a positive experience for the dog.

***I'm so excited and I'm having way too much fun!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

Turn your back when the dog barks and stop playing; resume play only when the dog is quiet. Give your dog something to hold in his mouth when he's really excited (for example, in the car).

Dogs are less likely to bark when lying down; train your dog to "down-stay".

***I miss you - please come back!***

## **SOLUTIONS:**

Provide interactive toys and chewies for your dog while you're away, to keep him busy and relieve anxiety.

Keep your departures and arrivals very low-key to avoid getting the dog worked up. Train your dog from an early age to spend some time alone each day.

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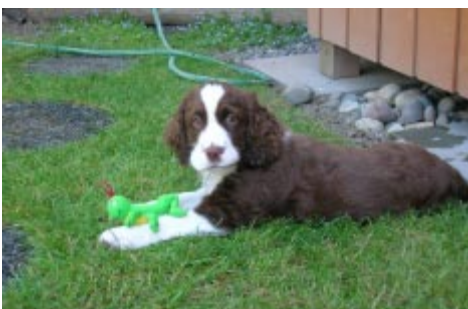
Sophie, Blue Tick Coonhound lives with Brenda

Trying to reduce barking through punishment such as bark control collars is unlikely to be effective, because it doesn't show the dog what to do instead of barking. A more effective approach is to teach the dog to do what you want it to do - that is, be quiet and under control. For occasional barking, you can train the dog to stop barking on cue. Choose a quiet cue such as "Ssshhh" and a hand signal (index finger held vertically against your lips). Teach the dog what the cue means, like this: when your dog barks, put your face right in your dog's face and say "Ssshhh" with the hand signal. This should distract the dog from barking momentarily. In that instant, reward the dog for stopping barking with praise and a treat. Once he has learned this cue, you can use it from a distance.

REMEMBER TO NOTICE WHEN YOUR DOG IS QUIET, and give him attention for NOT barking, especially at times when he would normally have barked.

Mary Anne Leason, Ph.D.  
Registered Psychologist and Certified Pet Dog Trainer, Pet Peeves Canine Behavioural Consultants

For further reading: Terry Ryan, "The Bark Stops Here" March 2000; Pat Miller, "When a Voice is a Vice" from The Whole Dog Journal, March 2005



*Kaila, English Springer spaniel lives with Vicki*

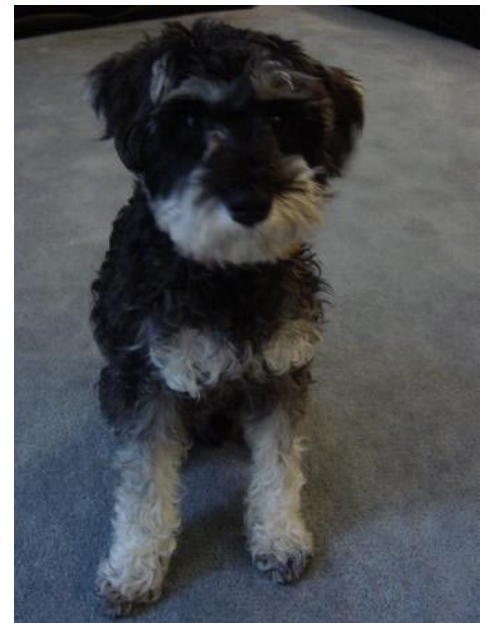
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Dog Trainer and Lecturer, Suzanne Clothier coming to Victoria in July**

Suzanne Clothier, author of "If a Dog's Prayers Were Answered, Bones Would Rain from the Sky" will be speaking in Victoria in mid-July. On Friday, July 14th, at 7:00, she presents "If Dogs Could Speak" at the David Lam Auditorium at UVic. This lecture will focus on understanding the dog's perspective, reading body language, leadership issues and solving behaviour problems. Cost is \$25 and tickets are available at [www.members.shaw.ca/clothier.seminar/registration.htm](http://www.members.shaw.ca/clothier.seminar/registration.htm) July 15 and 16th, Suzanne presents in-depth seminars on dog behaviour and training techniques at Dunsmuir Lodge. Saturday's seminar will focus on relationship-based training and Sunday will unravel the puzzle of problem behaviours and aggression in dogs. If you missed out on her lecture or seminars two years ago, you have another chance to experience Suzanne's unique and entertaining presentations on understanding the dog-human relationship. For information and registration, contact [suzanne@canine-chaos.com](mailto:suzanne@canine-chaos.com) or visit, [www.members.shaw.ca/clothier.seminar/](http://www.members.shaw.ca/clothier.seminar/)

### **The Victoria Pride Society's Second Big Gay Dog Walk**

Despite the 'Pride' name this Dog Walk welcomes everyone—gay, straight or even slightly bendy—who just loves the opportunity to have fun with their pooches.



*Pizza, Miniature Schnauzer lives with Peggy*

What a sight last year at Clover Point! The smiles on people's faces easily outweighed the blustery weather as brightly attired pooches paraded about happily in their costumes: a bumble bee, butterfly, ladybug but the winner is—the Hawaiian dog complete with painted on eyebrows! The agility demonstration was met with cheers and applause as excited dogs exhibited extraordinary talents. There were treats and prizes, and stalls displaying every type of dog paraphernalia and dog services imaginable.

The camaraderie amongst dog owners is immediate, an exciting moment to meet and exchange tips and advice, 'show off' your four-legged friends and bask in the joy they bring us. With over 300 people in attendance you can only imagine the atmosphere!

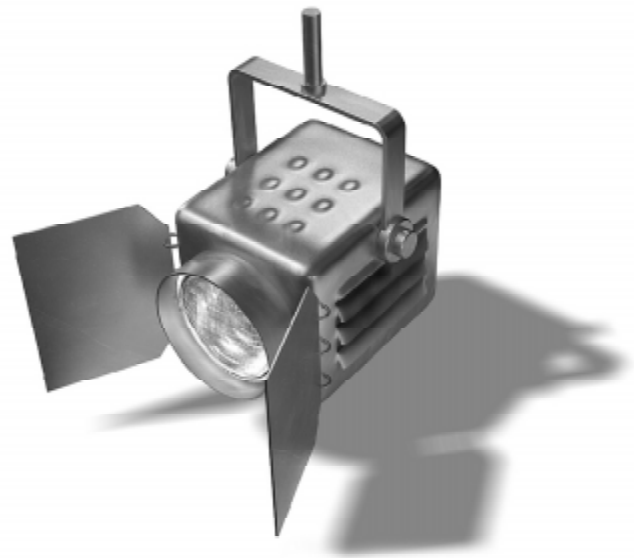
This year we anticipate an even bigger turn out on Saturday, June 24th starting at 12:00 noon. So mark it on your calendars and we'll see you there!

To find out more, contact Nicky at 380-9189

# Spotlight On...

## Big Heart Rescue

by Julia Nowosielska



Wow! As I navigate through the very “user friendly” website, [www.bigheartrescue.com](http://www.bigheartrescue.com) and look into all the services offered by Big Heart Rescue, I am amazed. Gord Harris, referred to as the webmaster extraordinaire for the group, has done a fantastic job.

To think that this fairly new service started only in August 2002, the phrase “you’ve come a long way” comes to mind. This non-profit organization has grown thanks to the compassion and efforts of so many people. From fundraising to providing protective and loving foster homes until the animals can be permanently placed, it is obviously a strong love for these voiceless animals that has made this program such a success.

Navigate the website further and click on the [www.bigheartrescue.petfinder.com](http://www.bigheartrescue.petfinder.com) link on the adoption page. You can actually search this wonderful webpage for all sorts of animals, within British Columbia by specific location, breed, size and age. Check out the great pictures.

Big Heart Rescue was started in the late 90’s because of a connection made by Yvonne Campagne, who worked in a veterinary clinic, and a registered nurse who went to Bella Bella to

work at a medical clinic. The challenging problems of the animal population, such as disease, in that area were so great that when Yvonne heard of the plight of the animals, she contacted Gail Moerkerken and their labour of love for these animals was born. Gail, Yvonne and two other volun

teers, there has been no stopping the Big Heart volunteers.

Big Heart Rescue is supported solely by donation. From donating your Canadian Tire money or HBC Rewards points, tickets for a trip for two to Mexico and gala dinners, the tireless efforts of the volunteers involved with Big Heart seem endless.

The opportunity for any of us to help this worthy cause is also endless. The “Ways you Can Help” link is a great place to start if you want to assist in some way. Pacific Coastal Airlines, one of the largest supporters for the association, donates their time and energy to help transport supplies and even the animals in need to

be moved. If you have the energy, love and space, why not foster an animal? The application form for fostering is on the website. Big Heart Rescue supplies veterinary care, food, and supplements for the animal. If some rehabilitation is needed they will even hire a trainer. There just aren’t enough foster homes.

The “Fundraising” link on the website is full of information regarding upcoming events. Come on out and enjoy the fun.



Sahara, a rescued Border Collie cross lives with Michelle

teers, made the trek to Bella Bella (paid for out of their own pockets) and held the first vaccination clinic (out of the local school) and provided some basic medical care, to the animals. They didn’t stop there. They continued on to a small island to do it again, but this time, out of a parking lot. Since

# Join Us—As a Supporting Member of Citizen Canine



In 2004, Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association incorporated as a British Columbia non-profit society with the goals of:

- Advocating for inclusive public policy regarding public access, acceptance, and welfare of dogs and dog owners in Greater Victoria
- Promoting responsible dog ownership and educating the public about dogs and their behaviour
- Developing a strong community of responsible dog owners.

We invite you to become a supporting member of Citizen Canine. Anyone who supports our goals can join by completing our application form and paying the \$20 annual membership fee. All funds raised will go to support our work on behalf of dog owners in the Greater Victoria area.

## Benefits of Citizen Canine Membership

As with any organization, the more members we have, the stronger our voice will be. By becoming a supporting member you can help us in our work, both through the membership fee and through active involvement in the organization. Membership offers the following benefits:

- Opportunities to participate in a local organization that works for dogs and their owners
- Voting privileges at Citizen Canine General Meetings
- A Citizen Canine membership card
- The option to receive mailed copies of our quarterly newsletter, The Scoop.
- Discounts at a growing number of local pet-related businesses (see our website for details).

To become a supporting member of Citizen Canine, complete the application and mail it to us with the membership fee. If you don't want to be a supporting member, you can still get our e-mail updates by registering at our website, [www.citizencanine.org](http://www.citizencanine.org)

## CITIZEN CANINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2006

I hereby apply for membership in CITIZEN CANINE DOG OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Municipality \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Dog(s) Name(s) and Breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a cheque or money order for \$20 made out to Citizen Canine. Send the completed application and membership dues to: **Citizen Canine, Cook Street RO, PO Box 23078, Victoria, BC V8V 4Z8**