

Lansing Unleashed eNews: August 28, 2006

Hello, Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks:

Welcome to our August 2006 eNewsletter issue. In this eNewsletter:

1. **Play Session Scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m.**
2. **Dog Paddle on Friday, September 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hawk Island County Park**
3. **Join Us at CAHS Walk for the Animals on Saturday, Sept. 16 at Fitzgerald Park, Grand Ledge**
4. **So What The Heck Is Happening With the Dog Park?**
5. **Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members**
6. **Getting Ready for the Dog Park & Play Session**

1. Play Session Scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Elm Park: We have requested a special permit from the City of Lansing to hold our first off-leash run, walk & play session at Elm Park. Elm Park has a fenced ball field that is a good place for off-leash play so we are hopeful this will be one of several sessions scheduled prior to the dog park opening. (The site of the future dog park is the east side of Scott Woods, adjacent to the north end of Hawk Island County Park. At 17.5 acres it will be much larger than Elm Park, with lots more room to spread out.)

But this is a start! At this writing we are awaiting final approval of the permit application from the City of Lansing. Bea VanKampen, BS, LVT, Animal Manners Plus, has agreed to join us as the trainer who will oversee the event. (If you are a trainer who would be willing to volunteer to help us out for future play sessions, please let us know.) This will be a members-only event and we welcome members both new and current.

Proposed dog park rules will apply for the event and all dogs must be licensed to be eligible to participate. (Yes, we will be checking.) Other rules include: 1) Dogs must be under owner control at all times. 2) Owners must pick up after their dogs. 3) No dogs in heat are allowed. 4) No more than two (2) dogs per person. 5) Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. 6) Use of the dog park is at your own risk. By state law you are responsible for damages or injuries inflicted by your dog.

Look for an email next week with confirmation of date and time, along with details about how to register. Remember that 2005-2006 memberships were extended through December 2006 and our 2007 membership year begins in January. Some of you who donated generously to our Annual Appeal are already members in good standing for 2007.

2. Dog Paddle on Friday, September 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hawk Island County Park: It is time for our annual fall dog swim on the beach at Hawk Island County Park, 1601 Cavanaugh, Lansing. Hawk Island is between Aurelius Road and Pennsylvania Avenue and just south of the future site of our dog park. Ingham County is kind enough to allow us to use their beach only twice a year, so make good use of our fall swim fling. Admission cost is \$5 per dog for members and \$10 per dog for nonmembers. All owners get in free. If you are not a member now, you can join at the event and your admission price will be included in the membership fee. Individual membership is \$15 and Pack (Household) is \$25 annually.

As with any wet and wild swim party, there are a few rules:

- a. Two dogs allowed per adult handler;
- b. Dogs must wear their current licenses and be leashed when out of the water;
- c. An adult must accompany dogs and kids;
- d. Dogs are allowed on the beach area only; and
- e. Owners must be prepared to enter the water to assist their dogs.

The dog swim is one of our major fundraising events and we are looking for volunteers to assist us at the admission gate and on the beach front. If you are interested in volunteering for an hour and half shift (which will leave plenty of time for you and your shaggy friend to play at the party), please contact us at info@lansingdogparks.com with your name, phone number and times you are available or call Cindy Ballard at 517-974-3103 by Wednesday, September 6. We again thank the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department for cosponsoring this event.

3. Join Us at the CAHS Walk for the Animals on Saturday, September 16 at Fitzgerald Park, Grand Ledge: Join us and hundreds of mid-Michigan animal lovers for a fun-filled day at Fitzgerald Park and help raise money for the nearly 6,000 homeless and abandoned animals the Capital Area Humane Society cares for annually. The event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the walk begins at 11:30 a.m. This year the CAHS expects the Walk for the Animals to be the best ever with nearly 1,000 participating walkers helping raise \$115,000! We will have our display at the vendor area, so please stop by and say hello.

4. So What The Heck Is Happening With the Dog Park? We get asked this question all the time and usually we politely answer that things are progressing, albeit slowly (some would say too slowly). Well, how does having the dog park open this fall sound? Yes, we actually mean the fall of 2006! With our fund raising almost accomplished, here is what needs to happen next: City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department requests quotes on fencing of the future dog park.; quotes are received and reviewed and the City of Lansing awards contract for fencing; Scott Woods site is prepared and construction of fencing begins; trails are cleared; water is run from Hawk Island County Park; dog park rules are finalized and signage is created; and once all the details are completed and Lansing City Council gives us the green light, the park is ready for opening. As you can see, there are plenty of details to be worked out and we will need your assistance and input as we move closer to our dog park grand opening.

To date, with your help, we have raised over \$80,000 for the costs of opening the park – cross your fingers that the cost of steel has not skyrocketed. In the interim, we will keep holding fundraising events such as the Dog Paddle and seeking donations from businesses, the dog-loving community and you, our loyal members.

5. Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members: Welcome to our new and renewing members including: Fran Mort, Fayann Lippincott, Animals Inc. Home Pet Services, Norma Jean Eppinger, Sandra K. Rowan, Carolee Ware, James Salehi, Susan M. Canty, Kathleen Faye & Barbara Slovisky, Rebecca Vanvelzor, Deb Lintemuth, Peggy Lynn Mead, Rachel Wawro, Micki Furman, Grace DeShaw-Wilner, and Connie Schultz.

6. Getting Ready for the Dog Park & Play Sessions: As we prepare for our first off-leash play session, here are some reminders of practical tips for managing your dog in an off-leash area. 1) Keep walking! Walking helps the dogs think of the site as neutral territory, which minimizes turf battles and other canine misunderstandings. Avoid the temptation to congregate with other people or let your dog crowd other dogs at the entrance. 2) Know your dog and supervise your dog at all times. Avoid situations that are likely to cause problems for your dog and other dogs. Be willing to work with other dog owners to prevent incidents. Understand that dogs, like people, have different temperaments and play styles. Rambunctious play is common. 3) Take responsibility for the actions of your dog. By state law, you are liable for damage or injuries inflicted by your dog. If your dog is involved in any incident, involved persons should exchange names and contact information. 4) Have fun and practice good dog park behaviors.

That is all for now. Woof! Stay in touch through our web site at: www.lansingunleashed.com

Our organization does most of its direct mail communication via email to save on postage costs. Email addresses are used for information on dog parks and dog related events and are not shared with third parties. Paid members without email access will receive mailings through the U.S. Postal Service.

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