

# The Straight Poop

## From the Board of Directors

After a recent change in the ADOG Board of Directors I was elected to be the President of ADOG for the remainder of 2006.

My goal as a member of the Board of Directors has been to insure the patrons of the park, both two and four legged, large and small, are represented and that our voices are heard. Many of our members can't attend the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings or the planning meetings for the new

Desert Vista Park Master Plan. But, with ADOG attending these proceedings we can be sure everyone is well represented. During this next year we will see new lights in our park and hopefully a visual barrier between the big and small dog sections, even if this barrier is only temporary. We have over \$8,000 in our general fund that we are holding until we can figure out how best to use this money in conjunction with the scheduled park

improvements. If we do see affordable improvements that can be accomplished with ADOG funds we will move forward to fund them.

Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas or suggestions or look me up at the park in the early (cooler?) morning hours. We have a great Dog Park and I think we all just want it to get better.

*C. Jerry Wise,  
President of ADOG  
cjerrywise@aol.com*

## Improvements to Desert Vista Park

The Town of Fountain Hills Parks & Recreation Department has hired an engineering planning firm to provide a new master plan for Desert Vista Park. The first major improvement will be the installation of lighting in the dog park. It will go out for bid in early July. Once the lights are installed in the fall the new off-leash park hours will be 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM year round.

The other major improvements will be the installation of a second large dog section entrance

and angled parking on Desert Vista Dr. The dual entrance into the small and large areas will be limited to the small and passive dogs. We also look forward to a 3 ft. high planter / fence / sight barrier between the small and big dog sections. This is designed to help control the inevitable barking between the big and small pups at the entrance and along the present fence line. The large dog side will have two new shade ramadas built and the small side will add one, complete with full roofs and cement floors. New

landscaping will be provided and sidewalks will be installed in various locations. A new restroom will be built just above the small dog area, subject to Town grant money to help defray some of the costs. Plan on next spring or summer for completion of all but the lights.

Expect some closure days once this work gets underway. We will do our best to minimize this and to keep the park patrons aware of scheduled closures.

## Well trained vs. Well-behaved Dogs

Just like children, a lot of dogs play nicely, will come when they are called (the first time), keep their feet on the ground and off of your chest, and will sit on command. This constitutes a well-trained dog, something to aspire to and attain through classes or other training.

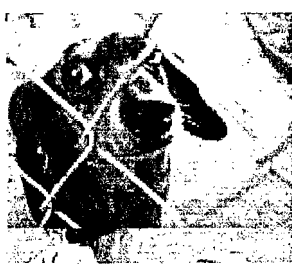
But to have a dog that is well behaved around other

dogs, and can play well with them, is the goal in the dog park. These dogs are well-mannered and rarely cause behavioral problems.

There are a number of reasons dogs have poor manners. A dog may not have been socialized properly or didn't receive appropriate corrections from adult dogs when

young. Some dogs are nervous or consider themselves "alpha" in the dog park.

In upcoming newsletters we will cover training that will help to modify bad behavior. We will solicit advice from local trainers as well as veterinarians and welcome questions from ADOG members.



## Chocolate Toxicity

Chocolate contains two ingredients of interest to the dog owner. Caffeine is one, and the other is theobromide. The darker the chocolate, the more danger to the dog, with baking chocolate the most toxic to pets.

As little as 0.1 ounce per pound of body weight is dangerous, resulting in vomiting, diarrhea, and stimulant effects such as restlessness, hyperactivity, muscle twitching, panting and possibly elevated heart rate and blood

pressure.

If your pet weighs 20 pounds and consumes 2 ounces of dark or baking chocolate, immediately visit your veterinarian for emergency care.

## Pet Related Websites and Interesting Reads

Temple Grandin's interesting second book, **Animals in Translation**, follows the very successful **Thinking in Pictures**.

The author, a PhD in Animal Behavior, presents animals' views of the world as similar to hers, fascinating because Dr. Grandin is autistic. While at times technical, she makes her arguments in an easy to read format. The book is an excellent introduction to

reading dogs' body language.

Want to find breed-specific items, unusual collars, beds or gifts?

The mail order and online catalog *In the Company of Dogs* ([www.inthecompanyofdogs.com](http://www.inthecompanyofdogs.com)) is the place to look. If you are nuts about your dog, or know someone who is, it's the site for you!

BARK magazine is full of health and training news, terrific pet products and comes out every two months. This is a serious magazine, with trainers and behaviorists as authors of the various articles. Go to [www.thebark.com](http://www.thebark.com) to start your subscription.

## Microchips Help Find Pets

More than 10 million pets are lost nationwide every year. Although fewer than 3 % of all pets have been implanted with microchips, the procedure is gaining popularity with animal rescue groups and breeders of high-end dogs. Microchips also are useful in identifying stolen animals.

Many animals adopted through the Humane Society have been implanted with a microchip developed by a California veterinarian, who encased a microchip inside a tiny bit of biocompatible material

and designed a method of injecting it in animals with a hypodermic needle.

Each microchip has a unique number that can be read by a handheld scanner that emits radio waves.

Radio frequency identification has been used in industry since the late 1970s for inventory control.

American Veterinary Identification Devices has provided scanners to most animal control agencies and Humane Societies around the country. A growing number of

veterinarians are making scanners a standard piece of office equipment.

The numbers in the chips correspond with a name and address in the company's database, which can be accessed at any time by veterinarians, animal shelters and humane societies through a toll-free number.

The microchip lasts for the life of the animal but it helps only if pet owners keep their address current with the ID company. Updates can be done by telephone or email and are effective immediately.

## Before Visiting the Dog Park

Dog parks can be fun, but Sheila McCullough, formerly a veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, says that before visiting a dog park, owners should know the risks and take precautions.

One risk is the spread of infectious disease. To minimize your dog's risk of getting sick, make sure all its vaccinations are current and keep your dog at home if it is coughing,

vomiting or has diarrhea.

Another hazard is injury from dog bites and dogfights. You can prevent bites by training your dog to come when called and be well behaved with other dogs, people, and children. Neutering your pet has benefits to both health and safety as it reduces male territorial instinct. Even the gentlest male dog, if not neutered, can be uncontrollable when a

female in heat is nearby.

McCullough also stresses that when playing in the hot sun, your dog may not notice that it is getting overheated so make sure that your dog takes breaks in the shade and gets plenty of water.

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*Each newsletter will feature a veterinarian addressing a health issue common to dogs or excerpts taken from vet pages on the web*

**ADOG  
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## **ADOG Committee Meetings**

- July 12 at 6 pm
- August 9 at 6 pm
- September 13 at 6 pm
- October 11 at 6 pm
- November 8 at 6 pm

The Board meetings are open to all ADOG members.

## **Request for foster homes**

PawPlacement is just one of many adoption groups looking for foster homes for dogs, cats or kittens. With our off-leash park and our highly socialized pets, Fountain Hills residents could make the

difference in a dog being placed in a loving, forever home or being euthanized. Please consider fostering an animal for as little as a week or two. Kitten season, during the

springtime, is especially critical, with hundreds being euthanized each week.

Think about it and donate time or money to save homeless pets.

## **Quarterly Quotation:**

***Don't make the mistake of treating your dogs like humans, or they'll treat you like dogs.***

*--Martha Scott (US Actress)*