

# EVANSVILLE DOG OWNERS GROUP

August 18, 2015  
North Park Library

Attending: Treasurer Carla Kleinschmidt, Membership Chair Debbie Wozniak, Secretary Alice Rademacher, Board Members Pam Arnold, Bill Thomas, Lee Thomas, member Randy Copeland and guest Zach Newton from Wildcard Dog Services.

Zach's program on park safety and identifying dangerous dogs began at 5:08pm. Most fatal attacks that occur at Dog Parks involve young male Staffordshire Terriers (pitbulls) both neutered and nonneutered 1-3 years old. Zach recommended that new member dogs be evaluated before allowing membership. He also recommended that gates between sections be locked to prevent dogs mixing that people are trying to keep separate. Our gates can be unlocked by large dogs without human supervision.

He highly recommended that Toy Breeds be restricted to the Small Dog Area to prevent injuries and deaths. Toy Breeds can be fatally injured by accident by larger dogs not even trying to be aggressive. Never mix Toy Breeds with Working Breeds.

He recommended our age for people allowed in the park be increased to 15 years old. Injuries involving people are usually children at Dog Parks.

He said double staging areas would be better than having people catch their dogs when new dogs enter. Dogs would have a chance to get used to the new dogs and still be separated.

Training our members what they should do in case of a dog fight could be invaluable. He recommended people shouting commands at the dogs to sit or down (can break their concentration on a fight). Inserting livestock panels can help to break up a fight. Airhorns can work to distract fighting dogs. Other people not helping break up a fight should be getting their dogs out of that section immediately.

Most problems escalate because people are not watching their dogs. Many parks have taken out seating and banned cell phones. Priority should be the dogs themselves. Toys are a really bad idea because they promote resource guarding by the dogs and help instigate problems.

Grooming should be prohibited at the Park because dogs should not connect the park with grooming which can be negative for some dogs.

Communal water bowls can be the source of passing bacteria and viruses.

He then answered some questions and thanked the board for the opportunity to speak to us.

Alice opened the meeting at 6:10. Minutes from the last meeting were approved via email.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Carla reported a balance of \$4,344.38
- Of the \$217.95 made from the Hacienda Fundraiser, \$200 was approved to be used helping to pay off the porch addition.
- \$115 Porta Potty bill and \$83.34 Mower bill were paid this month.

**Membership:**

- Debbie reported our current membership count is 135

**Old Business:**

- A program on our Insurance will be presented at the September meeting at 5pm at the North Park Library.
- Kim Schapker procured a push lawnmower and Pam reported someone is now sprucing it up. Bill Thomas managed to get the garage door to rise an additional few inches. This will mean we can raise the roll bar on the mower and give us a few more precious storage inches which will help make room for the push mower or at least make it a little easier to park the zero turn mower. He will see if we can move the wall any more.
- No one is interested in working the Fido Fest or the Dog Park Membership Day push in the fall so plans were discontinued.
- One prospective member asked if all our vaccinations were necessary for the safety of the dogs belonging to the park. Alice checked with Dr. Gormley at Highland Veterinary Clinic and the vaccinations we require should stand.

**New Business:**

- Purchase of 3 air horns (one for each area) was approved.
- Alice will check to see if we can get some plastic panels donated to serve the same purpose as livestock panels.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Alice Rademacher

Attachments: None