



K-9 KORRAL'S



ROUND UP

Website: www.geocities.com/k9korralfp
Created by Bruce Robinson

Located at 85th Street and Park Lane South

PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1



Pooper Scooper



Keep this bad boy out of the park!!

Welcome Back



How's it hanging everybody? We're back and so are you. It seemed like such a long winter, but at long last Spring is here. And we're ready to start another great year with our dogs and our friends.

We have a few things on our agenda to start the year off which you should be aware of.

Those of you who were members last year and signed our membership forms probably got a letter from our president Ronald Niles asking you to pay your membership for the new year. We sent out 260 letters to people who gave us their correct address. Yes, as we expected, many letters came back telling us that the addresses were either incorrect to start out with or that our members have flown away to greener pastures.

On the positive side, we did get many responses from people who were all too happy to send us a check for \$10 to renew their membership. There were also several people who didn't just hold to the \$10, but splurged and gave us \$20, \$30 even \$50 as a donation. To all those people, we extend a grateful thank you.

In just three short weeks, we've raised more than \$500 in dues alone. We also sent out letters to people who advertised in our newsletter last year. Several of these merchants have also responded and we're looking strong for the coming year.

At the same time that we're tapping our previous members and our advertisers for funding, we intend to launch an aggressive membership drive to sign up all those newcomers to the K-9 Korral. Yes, there are many new faces and many new dogs. We want to get them signed up.

Now, what do we want to do with the money? As was mentioned in those membership renewal letters, the first thing we intend to do

is sanitize the soil. Three years have gone by since the dog run opened so that's quite a few dogs that have traveled through our gates. That's a lot of defecation that has landed on our soil.

While many of us are diligent in picking up after our dogs, there are an equally large number of people who have not been so diligent. As a consequence, feces do get into the soil and some of it has been infected with parasites that have become one with the soil. These parasites, namely whipworm, can be harmful to our dogs.

In fact, some of our dogs over the winter did come down with whipworm infection, the symptoms being diarrhea and anemia. While there are medications to combat the parasites, experts say the best method to thwart them is by prevention. In the near weeks to come, we intent to lay down a non-toxic lyme, covering the entire dog run one piece at a time. We will be required to close the dog run for several days while this is done so no dog is exposed to the chemical. It will be laid down under the guidance of a veterinarian.

When that is completed, we then intend to put down more gravel to cover the soil, which will go a long way toward killing whatever parasites do inhabit the soil.

As this is being done, we also intend to enforce the rules of the dog run, particularly the rule about picking up after your dog. We all have to be diligent in making sure we pick up or that our neighbors pick up so we can prevent disease from spreading.

We all have to get tough with each other. If you see someone's dog defecating in the dog run, say something. Tap your neighbor on the shoulder and point out that their dog is going. We all have to be responsible if the dog run is going to continue to be a success. We're counting on your cooperation.

Some of you looking at our main front page photo will be angry, some will be amused, others disgusted, and some will be shocked, appropriately so. We wanted something that would shock because the message about picking up after our dogs is just not getting through to enough people.

As I walk around the dog run, particularly near the fence, I can see all the places where people have failed to pick up after their dog. It makes me angry because every time we don't pick up, it's another chance for one of our dogs to be infected by a parasite or catch a disease.

The greatest danger we face this year is the contamination of the soil with whipworm, a parasite that attacks a dog's large intestine. At least six dogs that I know of, including Katie, my dog, came down with whipworm this winter. My dog suffered diarrhea, vomiting, internal bleeding and overall lethargy. She was miserable and so was I. She was infected after ingesting some contaminated



soil.

Katie is better now, thank God, but not after my wife and I spent literally hundreds of dollars on testing and medication to rid the spaghetti-like worms from her system. I certainly would not wish that on anyone.

A secondary reason is that if we don't pick up, the Parks Department can close us down. Parks officials have said to me in no uncertain terms what the consequences will be if we don't keep the dog run clean.

To take another step toward protecting our dogs, we also are going to sanitize the soil with lime and cover it with gravel. We'll have to shut the dog run for a couple of days while we do this. So be patient with us.

In the meantime, pick up and make sure your neighbors are doing the same thing. We have a lot on our agenda this year including expanding the dog run and holding numerous other fun events for us and our dogs. If we all pitch in, then I guarantee we'll have a great year. I, for one, am looking forward to it. See you soon.

Please Patronize Our Advertisers They Support Us!!!

Sign Up Now For Your Flowerboxes

It's that time of the year when we will be seeking volunteers to adopt our flowerboxes again. Terry Pang, our resident flower expert, who can be seen just about every day pruning, planting and watering plants in and around the dog run, will be organizing the flowerboxes this year.

As we did last year, there will be a contest for the best maintained and beautiful flowerbox in September. And prizes will be awarded. However, we're going to need motivated, enthusiastic people to care for the plants. Water may not be a problem this year as we have tapped into the fire hydrant across the street.

Under Terry's supervision, the K-9 Korral, through our contacts with the Parks Department, will supply the plants, which will be put into each of our 46 boxes on the weekend of May 14-15. We'll need volunteers to plant them on that day. To sign up to adopt one of the flowerboxes, please call Terry at (718) 441-0434.

Dogswalk Against Cancer 2005

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring a dog walk on May 1st at 9:00 A.M. at 89th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. If you and your dog are interested in walking against cancer you can sign up on the day of the event or contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345



Looking For Interesting Sites??

Check out our website at www.geocities.com/k9korralfp

We have many new features, interesting links, photographs, a message board and fun things to do.

Just A Couple Of Rules To Live By

When you walk into the K-9 Korral, you may not know it but there is a code of conduct that every responsible dog owner must abide by if we are all to live together safely. After all, a dog run can potentially be a dangerous place. So let's follow a few simple, common sense rules.

Never leave your dog unattended and keep an eye on him. A fight can break out in a flash. Watch for aggressive behavior like mounting, intimidating or annoying another dog.

Most dogs don't like to be mounted, so stop it as soon as it starts. If the behavior continues, leave the run. Also, unneutered males have a tendency to get into trouble more than neutered ones. It's best that the "unfixed" dog leave in the event of an altercation regardless of "who started it."

When breaking up a fight between two dogs, both owners must break it up immediately. Take care when doing so. Approach from the rear and pull both dogs away from each other. Never put your hand between them.

There's also no ball playing in the dog run (among people that is). And it's generally not recommended that you bring dog food or toys into the dog run because these can lead to fights as well.

Children too are probably harder to control than most dogs as they are excited and usually happy to be around dogs, but dogs may interpret their presence differently and bite them. Children too aren't experienced with dogs enough to know when dogs are being aggressive or showing signs of biting.

We don't recommend children under 16 enter the dog run without adult supervision. There's no running in the dog run for obvious reasons...the dogs will give chase and some might bite. If you see a child in the dog park running, stop the child. Please. This is not a playground.

Also, when entering the dog run, take your dog off the leash. We know you might be anxious or concerned about your dog getting mobbed by dogs already in the run. But, that's how they introduce themselves and your dog will feel better if it is not restrained on leash.

Don't bring food, glass containers, alcohol or drugs into the dog run. This is not a picnic area nor is it a place for you to kick back with your dog and have a few drinks or a joint.

Lastly, you might ask about who is going to enforce these rules. Well, every one of us will enforce them by our conduct and the subtle pressure we put on our peers. But if rude, bad or illegal behavior persists or if someone is not acting as a responsible dog owner or does not control their "dangerous" dog, then the police, who are only a cell phone call away, will be summoned.

We all have to share the same small space, so let's be courteous and respectful of one another. If we do that, we can maintain the K-9 Korral as the wonderful place that it is.

The Roundup is written and designed by Paul & Dee Tooney

K-9 Korral is a not-for-profit organization supported solely by volunteers

Chicken Soup For Our Soul

You and I have a dog and are now part of the "dog experience." As pet owners we share many of those experiences and as members of the K-9 Korral we share a place where we take our dogs to socialize with other dogs, burn up some energy and have some fun so they can go home and crash: just the way we love them. During the winter, I was given a copy of "Chicken Soup for the Pet Lovers' Soul," one of the popular series of books that can make you feel good about yourself and humanity in general. I enjoyed it. So, the idea came to me that since we share our dog run, we should also use this news-

letter as a forum to share our experiences. If you have a heartwarming or humorous story about your dog, that can make us laugh, cry or feel good about ourselves and our pets, please send it to us for publication. Topics can be about a vacation you took with your dog or a pet friendly town you visited or how your dog did something you were proud of. Keep it of reasonable length and type it, so we can read it. You can e-mail it to DINOPALNY@aol.com or mail it to Paul Toomey, 78-10 78th Street, Glendale, NY 11385. The following is a story I wrote to kick the whole thing off.

A Big, Lumbering Dog He's Not By Paul Toomey

Many people who don't own dogs don't understand the bond you have with your dog, the fact that you love them beyond comprehension and treat them like you would a child. As dog owners, we can be pretty sensitive about our dogs and the things people say about them. We find them beautiful, even if they are really aren't, and endow them with special traits. To us, our dogs are unique.

Yet, the rest of the world just doesn't see things the way we do. And it can be painful when that other point of view, the one that doesn't see dogs as wonderful creatures, raises its ugly head. It can come from places you don't expect, like a beloved aunt.

Sister Ann was my favorite aunt: smart, articulate, compassionate and hip. She is a Catholic nun so, in my mind, she's kind of holy too. She was a teacher, a social worker and someone who helped poor people in Latin America. Naturally, you would expect her to be a dog lover.

She believes dogs do have a place in the world, but it is not ahead of people. She also doesn't go in for the smothering of dogs, the spoiling of them when there are people who need our help more such as the elderly and sick, victims of crime, the poor.

After a lifetime of working, she's now retired and living in a small, modest home next to a church in a small, wooded town in upstate New York. The winters there are brutal, and one of her neighbors, asked her to look after their home while they went to Florida.

Her neighbors' home was fully-furnished, cozy and nestled among pine trees, and she was permitted to use it as her own. It had a big-screen television and a piano in the living room, a den full of books and stereo equipment warmed by a fireplace, a Jacuzzi in a back room and a fully stocked refrigerator in a beautiful kitchen.

One winter my aunt invited my wife and me to the house for the weekend. Our dog, Dino, was just over a year at the time and we wanted him to come with us. It would be his first time upstate and we were eager to see him romp around in the woods.

My dog was a lean, energetic dog more German shepherd than Rottweiler. He was always adept at using his paws to reach for things or box another dog in play or scratch at a door to let us know he wanted to go out.

We thought he was rambunctious, but were willing to live with him and his bouts of destructiveness. Scratching doors was a troublesome habit, but cute in its own way. He was a dog with an engaging spirit,



we thought.

When we arrived at the house, my aunt was apprehensive to see him, but she let him stay. We did our best to control Dino, but he was too excited to be outside in the snow with the deer wandering the field behind the house and, inevitably, he pawed at a door, leaving some scratch marks.

When my saintly aunt saw the marks, she flipped. "That big, lumbering dog is not allowed here again," she yelled, banning Dino forever from the pleasures of upstate life.

She was right to be angry, of course, because she had to hire a local carpenter to fix the door before her friends returned from Florida. We offered to help out with the repairs, but she refused to accept it and we felt bad. But at the same time we felt, "What was all that stuff about Dino being a 'big, lumbering dog?'"

He wasn't that big, only 75 pounds at the time, and he certainly wasn't "lumbering," which means slow-moving and clumsy. Our dog was graceful, athletic and quick. Lumbering just didn't describe him. We were hurt and slightly upset that my aunt would use those words to describe Dino, our pet, our lovely, sweet, wonderful dog.

Were our priorities in the wrong place? I don't think so. We let it go. We swallowed our pride. But, we didn't forget. The insult

continued to rankle.

It was two years later, when that horrible weekend was surely well behind us, that I overheard my aunt talking about another dog, a smaller dog, a Shih tzu maybe 20 pounds soaking wet. She referred to that creature as a "lumbering dog."

I couldn't believe my ears. Had I heard her correctly? Then, she said it again. It couldn't be true. But it was. The picture was clearer now.

It seemed that whenever she used the word "dog" in a sentence she would prefix it with the word "lumbering." Whenever she talked about a dog, no matter what it was, she called it a "lumbering dog."

She just liked using the word "lumbering" whether it fit or not. Maybe she didn't know she was misusing the word, but I felt better. I didn't correct her, deciding to let sleeping dogs lay, even the lean graceful ones.

I realized something else. Dog owners can be overly sensitive, and that people aren't perfect, even the ones we love.

They just think about dogs differently than we do. Some may have issues with dogs or with the way some of us spoil our dogs. They're entitled to their opinion, I guess. I just hope, in the future, they'd leave my dog out of it.