



# A Howlin' Good Time OFF-LEASH NEWS

APRIL 2014



**HELP  
WANTED**

**River Park Clean-up  
Saturday, April 26  
9:30am to 12:30pm**

For all the right reasons, please join us for the annual Spring clean-up in partnership with The City of Calgary. Full details and a list of things to bring are included in an article on this page.



Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends. If at any time you no longer wish to receive communication, just let me know.

Candice  
C: 403.703.1671  
E: [riverparkoffleash@gmail.com](mailto:riverparkoffleash@gmail.com)  
W: [riverparkoffleash.ca](http://riverparkoffleash.ca)  
T: [@riverparkdogs](http://@riverparkdogs)

## The Grass Needs Help Too

At this time of year the park is muddy and wet. People are avoiding the trails and walking on the soggy grass. The grass isn't very happy right now but it will come back at some point.

Maybe we can help it to get established. Throw on some waterproof footwear and walk on existing trails. And perhaps the dog can have a regular walk instead of playing ball or try running the dog on the east side where the ground is less wet and cover is heavier.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!



## Coyote Warning

The breeding season for coyotes runs each year from January through March. During this time, they become more territorial and aggressive so be safe and watch your dog at all times. Accompany them outside if they need to go to the bathroom, especially at night.



If you encounter a coyote, do not turn your back or run away. Yell loudly in a deep voice, wave your arms, make noise to encourage it to move away from you. Leash your dog and if the coyote does not leave the area, back away slowly while still facing the coyote.

With a bit of caution, it's easy to co-exist. It's up to us to be vigilant and protect our dogs.

## It's Time to Get River Park Back in Shape!

Join us for the annual River Park Spring Clean-up in partnership with The City of Calgary on Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 until 12:30pm. Come for part or all of the time. On event day, swing by the south end of the park and stop by the Friends of River Park table to sign the volunteer sheet and be assigned an area to clean.

Although The City uses the acronym P.U.P.P.Y. (Pick up Puppy's Poop Yourself) to promote their park clean-up efforts, the Friends of River Park Off-leash Advocates will use our regular theme because people may think the event is geared toward young dogs only.

This year, we'll also focus on the River Park escarpment, a part of River Park that we rarely address. It's disgusting to see the amount of used poop bags, coffee cups and beer cans littering the east side of River Park along the escarpment from north to south. The amount of discarded items seems much worse than in previous years. We all know they didn't get there by themselves. It's easy to speculate about the reasons why this is happening. We can certainly all agree that in all cases it's uncaring and irresponsible people causing the problem.

Please set aside some time on clean-up day. We can make a difference and right a wrong.

Planning to join the pack? Here's a reminder list for event day:

- Bring gloves & bags or a pail and shovel
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear
- Dogs are welcome to join owners cleaning River Park but not allowed to join owners cleaning along the escarpment

If you'd like to help clean the escarpment, keep in mind it's pretty steep so you should be reasonably fit to scramble up and down.

Posters are displayed in the park and we'll also use social media and email to promote. Would love your help to spread the word. Hope to see you there.



# DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"  
look away/head turn



STRESSED  
yawn



STRESSED  
nose lick



"PEACE!"  
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"  
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"  
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED  
scratching



STRESS RELEASE  
shake off



RELAXED  
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"  
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE  
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"  
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"  
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"  
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"  
play bow



"READY!"  
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS  
head tilt



HAPPY  
(or hot)



OVERJOYED  
wiggly



"MMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,  
DON'T STOP"

## Paws for Thought

"They love unconditionally, forgive immediately, are the truest of friends, willing to do anything that makes us happy, etcetera. If we attributed some of those qualities to a person we would say they are special. If they had ALL of them, we would call them angelic. But because it's "only" a dog, we dismiss them as sweet or funny but little more. However when you think about it, what are the things that we most like in another human being? Many times those qualities are seen in our dogs every single day— we're just so used to them that we pay no attention."

~ Jonathan Carroll, author

## Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

This section features some great online info to help keep your furry family member healthy and happy.

Let's start with a seasonal reminder about safety. As the season changes from cold to warm weather, dogs need a bit of time to adjust while they're shedding their winter coat. This applies to the short-haired dogs too. If you have a dog that likes to run or chase a ball, watch that they don't overheat. It's up to us to ensure they're safe.



Here's some great info from [PetMD](http://PetMD) about [chronic](#) and / or [sudden](#) diarrhea and dogs. For each topic, the article is two pages so don't miss any details.



Our thanks to **Lili Chin** for providing clear illustrations for dog owners everywhere!

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*lili*

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