Editors note

I, like many of us who walk our dogs off leash, never questioned how off leash came about. When I realized this was not a God-given right, but a privilege that could be rescinded, I joined FIDO. I joined the Steering Committee to help make sure my dog could play while I walk and talk with other dog owners. Walking with my dogs early morning in Prospect Park puts a smile on my face and helps me to appreciate the day.

This issue of the newsletter will contain:
1. concerns with Raccoons.
2. service dogs and their owners.
3. information about park problems which FIDO has helped resolve, over abundance of garbage and the new Fido green team.
4. Special events include the Memorial Service and Pupnic.
5. New free dog tags

FIDO is composed of concerned individuals who have an interest in keeping our dogs walking free. We care not only for dogs but also for the Prospect Park community.

If, at a Coffee Bark, someone asks what FIDO has done, offer him a cup of coffee and tell him of our accomplishments and cares. Oh yes give him a newsletter.

Betty Schwartz Dowling

Seminar information

FIDO believes that dogs, off-leash, largely socialize each other. But for a new owner, or an old hand with a new dog, or anyone with a dog that suddenly becomes incorrigible, the matter of behavior arises. Are we having trouble communicating with our dogs? Could it be that they are having trouble communicating with us?

More so than with people, communication with a canine occurs on many channels simultaneously, not all of them verbal (body language matters) and not all of it in the human-to-dog direction: oft-times your little Fido is trying to socialize you and can’t figure out why you just don’t get it.

Please join FIDO for an evening with Viviane Arzoumanian and Jean DeCesaris, trainers who base their practices on cultivating two-way communication between people and their canine pals. Plenty of time will be allowed for questions and answers. Whether your first dog has just gotten you as a person, or whether you’ve been a team for years, there is something for everyone in this presentation and question-and-answer session. Seating is limited, so please come early.

Anthony Chiappelloni tells all

Fido works with the Prospect Alliance. We have a big problem in Brooklyn. Last year we wrote an article about Raccoon Round worm. Now rabies is knocking. We informed the health department that Fido found a dead raccoon in Prospect Park. Also one of our members encountered a live raccoon acting strangely.

FIDO will hold a Seminar on June 30, 2010, at the Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. Brooklyn N.Y. 11215 Between 7-9 p.m. The cost for nonmembers is $10.00 members with card $5.00. Further information will be on the bottom right of this page.

FIDO represents the largest off-leash community in New York. On our web page, FIDO has set up a clearinghouse for those who wish to create local dog runs. FIDO is lobbying for a fenced in area near the Tennis Center.

The City Parks Commissioner has expressed support for a “Carry in; Carry out” policy – at least to the nearest garbage container. Look for new industrial strength containers along the borders of all open meadows and barbeque areas. Fido’s Green team supports this policy.

Fido works to locate lost dogs. We have an immediate response service which consists of free tags for all members’ dogs. Helping each other is what makes Prospect Park the best community in New York City. Fido is now carrying out its first measure to protect and identify all dogs owned by Fido a number, fidobrooklyn.org with an email address fidalostdog@gmail.com and the dog number. We work on community relations, the better relationship and communication we have with people the more all of us will be able to enjoy the Park.

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If you have an idea or a question write to
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Thank you and have a great Summer!
What are Service Animals?

Service animals, such as guide dogs for the blind, have been individually trained to help the disabled. It was in Potsdam, Germany, formal guide dog education of German Shepherds (Alsatians) began in 1927. Today, this is still the most recognized service, but dogs perform other tasks as well:

1. For the deaf, alerting the master to doorbells, phones, and fire bell rings;
2. For the handicapped, pulling a wheelchair, opening doors and refrigerators, and handing a phone to the master;
3. For epileptics, alerting and protecting before and during a seizure;
4. For diabetics, determining if blood sugar is too high or too low;
5. Aiding those with sleep apnea;
6. Giving emotional support to the elderly, cancer patients, physically disabled, and autistic children.

The dog eases progressive development, communication, attention, mood stability, social skills, and mobility in the autistic child. This has been 75 to 80 percent effective. Seeing eye and hearing dogs are trained to perform simple but necessary tasks, including carrying notes and alerting their owners to hazards. Recent research suggests that those with psychiatric disabilities can benefit from assistive animals. By providing therapeutic nurture and support, these animals ameliorate symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

A service dog is a life functioning tool. Under the ADA law, there are no exceptions to where a service dog is allowed. A private home may decline access, but all public places must allow a service dog. It is important, however, that the child’s school co-operate with the integration of a service dog into school.

Service dogs “Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act protect the right of people with disabilities to keep emotional support animals, even when a landlord's policy explicitly prohibits pets. Emotional support and service animals are not “pets” they are considered to be more like assistive aids such as wheelchairs, the law will generally require the landlord to make an exception to its "no pet" policy so that a tenant with a disability can keep his service animal inside their residence. In most housing complexes, so long as the tenant has a letter or prescription from an appropriate professional, such as a therapist or physician, and meets the definition of a person with a disability, he or she is entitled to a reasonable accommodation that would allow an emotional support animal in the apartment. Under the American Disabilities Act, the public must allow people with disabilities to enter with their service animal. Businesses may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person’s disability. People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be charged extra fees, isolated from other patrons, or treated less favorably than other patrons. This includes extra money for Violators of the ADA can be required to pay money damages and penalties.

If you have additional questions concerning the ADA and service animals, please call the Department's ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY) or visit the ADA Business Connection at ada.gov. and for people with a mental health service dog you can call the above number or Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law at (202) 467-5730.

Service dogs have become important in our lives. Their care is priceless and they are the unsung heroes and family members. Fido authors Brian Henry and Betty Schwarz Dowling

Rioghan Kirchner and her service dog
Teddy
A doctor at the VA hospital told Tony about service dogs. Since Fannie is a service dog, she is able to go places where dogs are forbidden. “I associate the hospital with pain, cancer, and dying,” Tony confides. “Without Fannie, I wouldn’t go. She lowers my blood pressure and my stress level and makes it possible to face the doctors.”

On a trip to the hospital with Tony, I had the chance to watch Fannie at work. As we walked down endless hallways smelling of illness and chemical cleaners, doctors, nurses, and patients crowded around to talk to Fannie and pet her, smiles instantly replacing frowns. Calm and loving, Fannie clearly enjoyed the attention.

“Now I have a hard time leaving the hospital because patients and staff keep stopping me to pet her,” Tony tells me.

Only service dogs and therapy dogs are allowed in hospitals or doctor’s offices. Service dogs help one particular person while therapy dogs visit many patients. Fannie does both. After watching Fannie with the patients and seeing how she reduces stress and inspires good feelings which make healing progress quicker, the VA Hospital has admitted its first therapy dog, Denali. A handsome Spinone Italianos who lives with Bob and Jane Ipcar now visits patients regularly, bringing joy to a somber place.

When I ask Tony what the most important service Fannie performs for him, he replies instantly, “The most important thing Fannie does for me is get me out of the house.”

This is more serious than it sounds. Along with cancer, Tony suffers from agoraphobia, an acute fear of the outdoors, as well as severe anxiety because of his illness. “Fannie is my closest companion,” Tony says. “She’s goes with me where I ever I go.

Tony met Fannie 13 years ago. She had been tied to a fence in Park Slope and abandoned. I ask Tony how Fannie got her name, and his answer is more beautiful than I expected.

“I used to walk around Greenwood Cemetery,” he recounts. “It’s a cool cemetery. Once I climbed a hill and saw a pedestal with a bust on top. It was surrounded by small tombstones arranged in a half-circle around it. I was interested and went to check it out. I found out the bust was that of Elias Howe, Jr., inventor of the sewing machine. At the top of each tombstone surrounding Howe’s pedestal, the relationship of the deceased to Howe had been carved into stone: sister, father, cousin, and so on. Below that, in lieu of names, there were only initials, birth and death dates, and RIP. That was it. Then I noticed a tombstone behind the pedestal that, unlike the others, had writing all over it. At the top of this tombstone was a full name, “Fannie,” and below were words I’ve never forgotten:

‘Only a dog, do you say, Sir Critic?
Only a dog, but as truth I prize
The truest love I have won in living
Lay in the deeps of her limpid eyes.
Frosts of the winters, nor heat of the summer,
Could make her fail if my footsteps led
And memory holds in its treasure casket
The name of my darling who lieth dead’

The dog was the only one with an epitaph! That moved me so much that I called my new dog Fannie!”

Finally, I ask Tony what makes Fannie a good service dog and he replies without hesitation, “Pure love. Fannie has pure love.” Then he tells me a bit more. “When I was in the hospital for all the surgeries, Fannie and my other dog, Jupiter, stayed with my sister. When I got out, I could hardly walk because my muscles had atrophied from so much time in the ICU. Someone from the VA drove me all the way to Pennsylvania to get the dogs. When I opened the door, Jupiter started jumping up and down like he was on a pogo stick, but Fannie didn’t move. She just looked at me, and I felt waves and waves of pure love. I never experienced anything like it before in my life. So that’s Fannie. That’s the way she is: pure love.”

By Michele Sevik
Whether you have a puppy or a child, there is protective knowledge you must have. It is much better to prepare your home and yourself to avoid disasters. Always keep a bottle of water with you when walking your dog. If your puppy or dog becomes too hot first wet its head and neck, then allow it to drink. Dehydration is always possible. Don’t walk your dog on pavement that can fry eggs, they will fry feet also. Pets are curious and will stick their noses almost anywhere. Ordinary household items attract our dogs. A pot of boiling water or hot fat can be a toy to tip over; electrical wiring makes for wonderful teething; toxic cleansers (bleach, laundry tablets, glass cleaners, etc.) are also deadly attractions. Rat poison and chocolate will kill dogs. Your garbage contains unlikely but common killers: spoiled food, cans with sharp edges and Spoiled food and assorted hazards. Anti-freeze protects your car, but dogs find this poison a sweet treat. Keep all garden pesticides, fertilizers, and other potentially dangerous chemicals in pet-proof containers, and out of reach.

We all love to give our canines special treats. Fine! Feed them delectable’s made for dogs, not cooked steak or chicken bones. They can choke on them, and if swallowed, the shards can perforate a pet’s stomach or intestines. Speaking of mouths, buy your dog chews or flosses this will stop the spread of gum disease and brush their teeth, rub their gums with a clean washcloth. This will save you hundreds in veterinary dental costs. Also, it is imperative to have preventive checkups. This includes vaccinations for rabies, distemper, parvovirus, corona virus, and hepatitis. Inoculations for Lyme disease and bordatella are recommended in areas where Ticks are prevalent. Mosquitoes can spread heartworm, a fatal disease for which dogs can be tested. I give my dogs monthly Heart worm pills, in addition to flea and tick medication.

Prospect Park has hazards. Raccoon droppings are found in the garbage. Canadian geese make everywhere, in standing water on the grass and in the pond area called Dog Beach. Don’t allow your pet to drink this fetid liquid, and wash them when you get home. If they role in Goose Poop. If your dog does drink the water, he may experience gas and diarrhea. Rice, chicken, and mashed potatoes may help alleviate his symptoms, but if they last more than a few days, see your vet. The most important thing to do is keep your dog hydrated. It is also important not to walk your dog on pavement that is too hot. Lastly, if your dog is off the leash after 9 AM or before 9 PM, the park police will ticket-you.

By Betty Schwartz Dowling

Rabies is Here

According to The Park Slope Courier, the Department of Health confirmed a positive result on a rabies test for a raccoon found in Boerum Hill near State and Nevins Streets. Rabies can and will spread from raccoons to rats, from rats to cats and dogs, and from them to people.

Brooklyn has many raccoons in its backyards. They’re not just in packs: If feeding strays feed them in the morning, dump water and food at night. This is how Rabies can spread. If you see a raccoon exhibiting unusual behavior, such as daytime activity (they’re nocturnal creatures) or excessive aggression or friendliness, be suspicious. Contact the Department of Health as I did. Animal Control will rent cages to trap these intruders, and the Department of Wildlife will take care of them. But Sandy Chan of the Wildlife Conservation says they don’t pick them up—we have to transport the animals to the Brooklyn ASPCA, which is against the law. You need a permit to transport wild animals. The thing to do is call 311 and tell the operator you are making a report of a violent raccoon in your backyard. Make them take the report; don’t let them transfer you to Animal Control.

Department of Health (800) 678-0411
Animal Control (212) 788-4000
Wildlife Conservation 482-488

By Betty Schwartz Dowling

Fido’s Green team headed by, Brian Henry meets Monday morning at 9AM. At the Picnic house. To collect scattered trash. President Anthony Chiappelloni , Green team Captain meets on Monday morning at the Peninsula to pick up trash that can hurt our pets. Please come and help if you can, the life you save might be your dogs. They are official volunteers of Prospect Park.

Special Events

Bark the Herald Angels. Fun for all included all family and friends. Look on Fido in Prospect Park face book and fidobrooklyn.org for pictures of this event. Santa giving out presents to our dogs not to mention the great singing and eating that occurred.

The Fido Memorial service was held on May 15, at 8am. It was Coordinated by Bob Ipcar and his wife Jane Landis. It is held to honor the memories of our departed dogs. Many people spoke about their departed canine friends and brought pictures to share. Flowers were put next to the newly planted FIDO Memorial Tree. The next major event is the Pupnic which will be held on June 25th at 4-7 P.M. In the Nether mead. No rain date. Bring your favorite dish of food or desert. Beverages and games provided.

FIDO will hold a Seminar on June 30, 2010, at the Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. Brooklyn N.Y. 11215. Between 7-9 p.m.

Calendar Pictures will be taken at Pupnic as well as the next two coffee barks. They can also be sent in via email. Instructions are on the Fido webs site or can be discussed with calendar stuff at the coffee bar.

Dog tags Fido is providing for the first time a centralized data base for all dogs of Fido members free tags available at the coffee Bark.
Fellowship in the interest of dogs and their owners

Mail to
Fellowship in the interest of Dogs and Their Owners
172 Fifth Avenue, #26
Brooklyn NY 11217

Email  Fidobrooklyn@gmail.com  web address  www. fidobrooklyn.org

____$50.____ $25.____ $15.____ Other____ Dues are suggested, its up to you.

Whatever you can afford

Name: ____________________________________________

Dogs names: ____________________________________________

Tag#  __________  Tag#  __________  tag#  __________

Street: ____________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________  State  __________________  Zip:  __________

Phone: __________________  Email address __________________

☐Please send my copy of the Newsletter by U.S.. Mail  ☐ Hold the email

FIDO would like to know ...

On behalf of dogs, their owners and the parks? (Circle the letter of the one or two most important sentiments to you.

A. the importance of promoting off-leash activities for all dogs and their owners
B. to protect off leash and other dog and owner rights that maybe threatened.
C. To promote use of Prospect Park and the diversity of it’s activities.
D. I like being part of this group, enjoy the social opportunities and being able to help.
E. I support off leash politically and financially, but have limited free time.

Your comments suggestions, orines or compliments for FIDO, Prospect Park or other, will help...