



MAY 2002

News on New Parks

The Parks & Recreation Commission has organized a subcommittee on Dog Parks. The subcommittee members are Michael Callies, Steve Fitch, and Nancy DeGhionno. The Mayor addressed the Commission at the April meeting to clarify the City Councils intent, so we invited the Mayor to present this position here:

A Message from the Mayor

In January of this year the Encinitas City Council conducted our goal setting session for the year. This is a noticed meeting with all Council members and Department Heads in attendance.

This year we set a goal of establishing a dedicated dog park that would be property specifically fenced for dog use only. It was further discussed that we can look at options that could even give us more than one site. In our discussion we felt that it was very important to evaluate and move to develop this idea before we examined any additional parks for off leash hours.

Shortly after our goal setting session, PADZ made a presentation that evaluated five different sites in Encinitas that should be considered for a dog park. The Council was very pleased with the information given and felt that this was a big step forward to achieving our goal. At that time we wanted it communicated to the Parks & Recreation Commission that we would like them to begin the process of evaluating the sites presented and make recommendations to the Council.

When the Parks & Recreation Commission began the process, somehow it seemed to get turned around and they began evaluating already existing parks for off leash hours. This began a polarization of groups that were concerned with sharing of the parks. The Council was concerned about this possibility, which is why we wanted to evaluate the dedicated dog park issue first. As Mayor, I went before the Commission and requested that they reconsider the order in which they address this issue. The Council would like them to work on the dedicated dog park issue first. If it were found after we establish dog parks that we still need additional services, then it would be appropriate to continue studying off leash hours at the existing parks.

The Council is dedicated to fulfilling this goal as soon as possible and feel that the Parks and Recreation Commission will assist us in doing this in a timely and efficient manner.

Sincerely,
Christy Guerin,
Mayor, City of Encinitas

- May 11
8th Annual San Diego Walk For Animals
Reg. 7:30am, Walk 9:00am, Fiesta Island
Benefits the San Diego Humane Society
- May 11-12
AHBA Herding Trial
Jamul
Sponsored by Southwestern Rottweiler Club of SD. Contact Paula Cingota 619-445-8309 for info.
- May 18
Cabrillo Kennel Club Show, Rancho Santa Fe
- May 19
Del Sur Kennel Club Show, Rancho Santa Fe
- May 21 - 5pm**
Encinitas Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, City Hall
- June 1
Woofstock 2002
Canine Sports Center
4821 Dehesa Rd., El Cajon
Dog Picnic to benefit the Greyhound Adoption Center. Lots of fun!
- June 1-2
Flyball Tournament
Rohr Park, Chula Vista
- June 15-16
Bahia Sure Kennel Club Show, Chula Vista

visit padz.org for links to more information

"Come!" part two

Having some problems getting your dog back at the park? Here are some tips to get you and your dog working together.....

It's Getting Warmer...

... and our furry friends get hot when exercising at the park. Don't forget to bring water for your dog, or at least a bowl to fill at the drinking fountain (we don't want to slobber up the bubbler!).

BagsBagsBags

With park use at all-time highs the bag dispensers are running empty more often. Plan on bringing bags from home so we can ensure that the dispensers have bags for those less prepared. Reuse your grocery and newspaper bags, or buy specially designed ones. Visit padz.org for links to online sources.

Last month we covered the basics of positive reinforcement, and how to get your dog started by rewarding him for "checking in." If you missed last month's column you can find it online at padz.org, just look for the April newsletter.

The hard part about calling your dog at the park is that playing in the sand is FUN! They need a reason to leave it and come back to you. If you have problems with this you need to practice at home where it's boring before you can expect them to respond at the park.

Several times (at least ten) over the course of the day, call your dog to you and give them a treat. It's essential that you praise your dog enthusiastically as they're coming to you *and* when you give them the treat. You want to connect the praise with the treat in the dog's mind. If you forgot to the treat, praise and race with your dog to get a treat. After all, we're not trying to play a trick on the dog. Try setting out a few small bowls around your house with treats in them (in a dog-proof place!) so you have them close at hand.

Slowly begin to increase distance and distraction. Don't test your dog. Call your dog when you really believe they will come. If you guessed wrong and they don't come you need to make it easier: Get closer, use better treats, or go to a quieter place. Always cheer them on the whole way. Think of the recall as a chain of behaviors (look, turn, move toward you...)and you want to reward the whole chain. Success builds reliability, you want them to rehearse the correct behavior, not the incorrect one.

When you're ready to try it at the park, remember to call your dog several times. Don't just use the recall to end their fun. Call them when they're not doing much, make it a highlight. Have your treats in your pocket and don't be stingy with them. If your dog is far away from you they may have trouble picking you out of the crowd. If they're standing there looking your way you should try moving a little, or signalling with your arms because dogs are much better at identifying moving objects.

Remember - coming to you should *always* be a good thing. Never call your dog to you to punish them. After all, they *did* come to you - they did what you asked, so be fair and be positive.

keep current at <http://padz.org>

And help PADZ earn money
Shop online with our affiliates
DogWise and SitStay.com

Do you want dog parks in Encinitas?
Become a P.A.D.Z. member!

via email:
padz@adelphia.net

via postal mail:
464 Cole Ranch Rd., Olivenhain, CA 92024

Include the following information:

- Name
- Postal Address
- Email Address
- Phone
- Fax
- Number of dogs in household and their names
- Volunteer skills or services you can offer

Donations are welcome.
Make checks payable to P.A.D.Z.