



# Seger Park Dog Owners Association Newsletter

Philadelphia, PA

[www.segerdoarun.org](http://www.segerdoarun.org)

Winter 2006/2007

## More Woodchips Are Coming!

Thank you to all who helped rake the existing chips back from the corners to the middle of the park and did other tasks at the maintenance event on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>! Doing that prepared the base for a new load of woodchips. They have been ordered. Contractors will be at the park on **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** spraying with borax, then spreading a new layer of chips.

**Get your 2007 SPDOA  
calendar before they  
disappear!**

**Calendars are available for only \$12 at  
Ethnics, 928 Pine Street**

## Did you know...

...that Seger Dog Park is brought to you through a partnership of the City of Philadelphia and the **Seger Park Dog Owners Association (SPDOA)**. SPDOA is a non-profit volunteer organization made up of individuals who support, manage and maintain the dog run for the benefit of the community.

### **Become a member!**

For \$25 a year, you can support the dog run and the SPDOA. You can join at our website (click on "Donate Now!") and include your address, e-mail, phone and the name of your dog) or by picking up a form from the mailbox on the bulletin board. Makes a great holiday gift!

## Health Alert: Watch Out for Worms

We have reason to believe that the dog park may be contaminated with eggs of intestinal worms. They also exist in piles of leaves and dirt almost anywhere. Intestinal worms are not earthworms; they include a range of tiny parasites that attach themselves to the intestines of animals. Symptoms may include diarrhea, weakness, and hair that may appear dull and dry. In some cases, there are no noticeable symptoms.

### What You Can Do

- Consult with your veterinarian to test for worms and discuss preventative treatments and, if necessary, de-worming..
- Make extra effort to pick up after your dog, remind others, and do a little extra pick up for the good health of all dogs.
- Practice good personal hygiene and wash your hands after leaving the park.

### What SPDOA is Doing

- Encouraging everyone to pick up poop and take care of their dogs
- Looking for a way to get our members a break on the cost of worm medicine (please help us figure out how to do this!)
- Spraying with Borax, also known as boric acid. Borax is a non-toxic salt commonly used against cockroaches and fleas. In the Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances, boric acid falls between table salt and aspirin. It works by scratching eggs and larvae of worms, causing them to dry out and die. This same approach is used at the Philadelphia 4-H farm.

Continued from previous page

## More Information

- Common preventative treatments for dogs include monthly tablets of Heartguard Plus or Interceptor which protect against intestinal parasites and heartworm (and are easy to give).
- More information available on the internet, in books, or from your veterinarian.
- Sources for this article include "Hookworms" by Holly Nash, DVM, MS (PetEducation.com), "Managing Hookworms in the Landscape" by Robert Dunn and Ellis Greiner (University of Florida Extension), and "The Safe Use of Boric Acid and Boron No. 10" by J.R. Blasius ([www.natbat.com/docs/boron.htm](http://www.natbat.com/docs/boron.htm)).

*Big thanks to newly elected Co-VPs of Operations, Marge Amron and Marco Daversa for their help in every aspect of dealing with worms, woodchips, borax, and other maintenance matters!*

## Philly's Homeless and Abandoned Animals Need You!

It is easy to make an immediate difference in the lives of homeless, abandoned and neglected dogs and cats. A love for animals and a desire to help them find warm, safe homes is all it takes.

PAWS, the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, is a donor-funded division of the Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Association (PACCA) dedicated to saving Philadelphia's homeless and abandoned animals. PACCA is Philadelphia's contracted animal control shelter, taking in almost 30,000 annually.

PAWS' lifesaving work depends on the assistance of our dedicated volunteers. Currently, our top priority is increasing the number of successful dog adoptions. We need volunteers to serve as adoption counselors at our adoption events, held every weekend. Adoption counselors are paired at the event with a dog needing a home. They serve as the dog's companion and champion, and discuss the adoption process and dog ownership issues with potential adopters. (Training is provided before each event.) Every volunteer allows another dog to come to the event and possibly find a home.

If you are not able to serve as a dog adoption counselor, there are many other opportunities for you to help animals in need. They include:

- Moving animals to safety by driving them to a foster home or rescue partner.
- Providing foster care to sick or injured animals that need time to recover, or to kittens too young to be adopted.
- Assisting clinical staff and volunteers in low-cost spay, neuter and vaccination clinics.
- Greeting and assisting customers at the shelter, helping them to adopt or offering assistance as they decide to surrender.
- Opening your home to an animal in need of rescue. When you adopt a best friend from PAWS, you are truly saving a life that may not have had a chance without your kindness.

To get involved, please visit [www.phillypaws.org](http://www.phillypaws.org) and click "Volunteer Now!" or email [volunteers@phillypaws.org](mailto:volunteers@phillypaws.org). The animals depend on you!



*Brad is just one of many dogs looking for a home. He is charming, anxious to please, and 2-4 years old.*

## Welcome New Officers

SPDOA welcomes those who stepped forward to fill the officer positions that remained open after elections. Welcome and thank you to:

- Bob Cressy, Community Outreach VP
- Susan Scherer, Webmaster
- Megan Chamberlin, Membership VP
- Andrew Freedman, Fundraising VP

**Come to the next SPDOA Meeting:  
Jan. 19, 7:30 PM, @ the Seger Rec Center**

