Celebrating Greyhounds

Fall 2013 Introductory Online Magazine

Tom by Praveen Mutalik

Celebrating Change

Greyhound Playdate

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From the Publisher

Some months ago, a dedicated task force embarked on the challenge of 'learning the ropes' of producing a digital magazine, with the ultimate goal of continuing to offer *Celebrating Greyhounds (CG) Magazine* to our loyal readers while also expanding our reach to engage a growing audience of Greyhound enthusiasts worldwide. As in many new endeavors, the learning curve seemed to grow steeper as we traversed a previously unmapped path. This journey has been like a treasure hunt: each turn presented a new puzzle along with an exciting discovery and made us only more eager to explore the next step. The outcome, while modest at this point, has allowed us to see firsthand the extensive capabilities of this compelling platform.

We are pleased to share with you the experience of watching *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* come to life with our initial online preview issue. With this earth-friendly, digital format, you can:

- Zoom pages in and out for optimal viewing
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- Instantly link to advertisers' websites
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Please feel free to share this mini-edition with your friends. It provides a glimpse of better and more robust things to come with our first full issue in Winter 2013 and beyond. We look forward, with hope and anticipation, to discovering where this new road will lead, and warmly invite you to join us in the travels ahead.

The Greyhound Project

A Better Idea for Dog Parks

by Ellen Ghere Paulus

The New Fence

Most of us have been to a dog park. We are dog lovers, and we anticipate a dog park will be a great recreational place to take our dogs. If you are like me, a long time Greyhound owner, you may have found the conventional dog park did not suit your needs, or that of your Greyhound.

We took our first Greyhound to a public dog park in 1996 after having him several months. We thought he would enjoy running around. Instead, he spent most of the time pacing at the gate, hoping someone would let him leave. We found some owners did not pay close attention to their dogs. Some dogs were unruly or too aggressive, and many people were unaware of the signals their dog or other dogs were giving off. It was the first and last time we went to the "public" dog park.

We own a family business, set on 1.6 acres of land in an industrial park. We decided to create our own Greyhound park by fencing in 1/3 of it. We offered it to any Greyhound adopters who wanted to run their dogs safely off leash. Many of them did. Three years ago, we started hosting "Greyhound Play Dates." People would come at a designated time on a Saturday or Sunday to let their hounds run and play together. Forty-two Greyhounds attended our first scheduled event. These be-

came regular outings, with people bringing snacks, dog treats and beverages, not to mention lawn chairs and pop-up tents.

In the year that followed, the local newspaper featured a number of articles citing negative incidents with dogs in our community - a child was bitten at a parade, a dog attacked someone walking in the park, and dogs were running loose terrorizing neighborhoods. Letters to the Editor asking to restrict where dogs would be allowed and demanding better enforcement of the leash law became more frequent. Our city does not have a public dog park. The nearest one is in a neighboring community 7 miles away, that got my husband and I thinking.

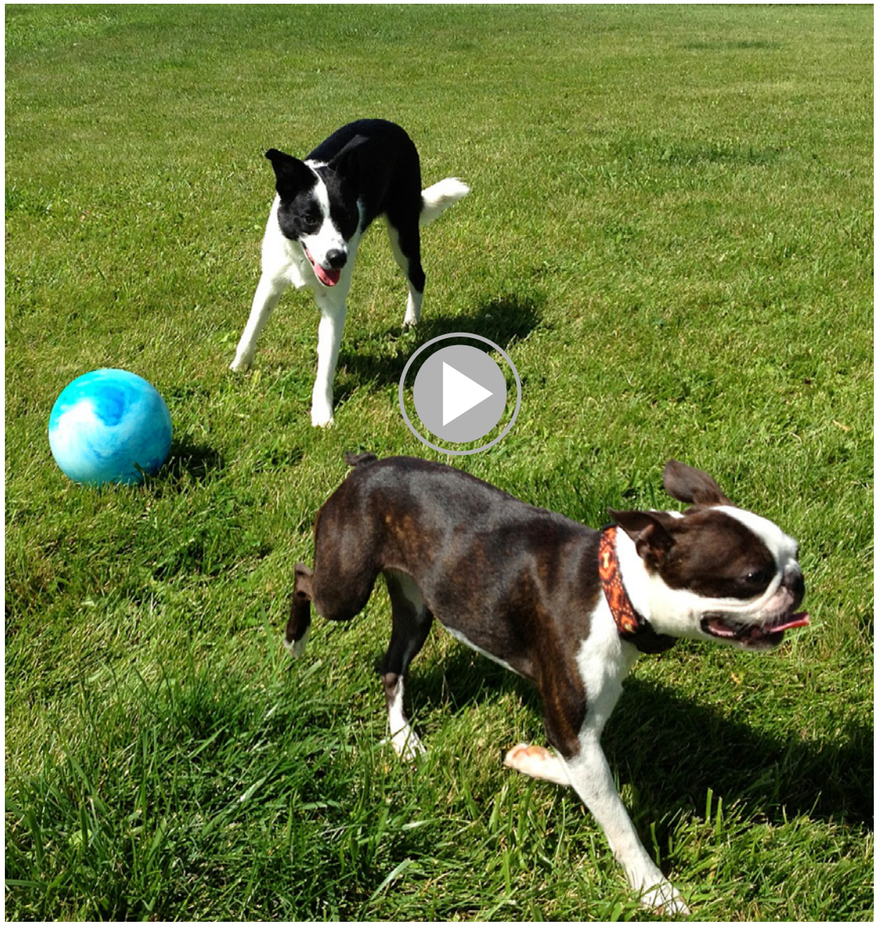
My brother, visiting from Cincinnati, brought a local publication advertising a private dog park. The concept was intriguing. I read the ad, went online to see what information their website offered, and then I called the park to talk to their staff. The concept of a privately owned dog park is quite different than a public park.

A private dog park is maintained by paid staff. In order to enter, you fill out a membership form, provide proof of vaccinations, and have your dog personality profiled to ensure appropriateness for a multi-dog setting. Dogs and owners who do not follow guidelines are not allowed to enter, or can be asked to leave. Membership fees fund the park, and control is maintained by the owners and staff.

I made a trip to Cincinnati to visit the private park and the idea that we could do the

“The concept of a privately owned dog park is quite different than a public park”

Fun for People and Hounds



Gigi and Gypsy in the Small Dog Area

same thing in our town began to grow. We started discussions with our local city leaders. Perhaps our dog experience and property offered an ideal location for a private dog park. City leaders loved the idea. On July 1, 2013, Lucky Dog Park LLC opened. Our biggest challenge has been educating people on the differences between a public and private park. Many people want a “free” dog park, or don’t understand the user fees. We explain that dog parks, public or private, are not free. Most parks are funded either through donations, or public money such as tax dollars. Someone is paying for the park, perhaps you just don’t realize it.

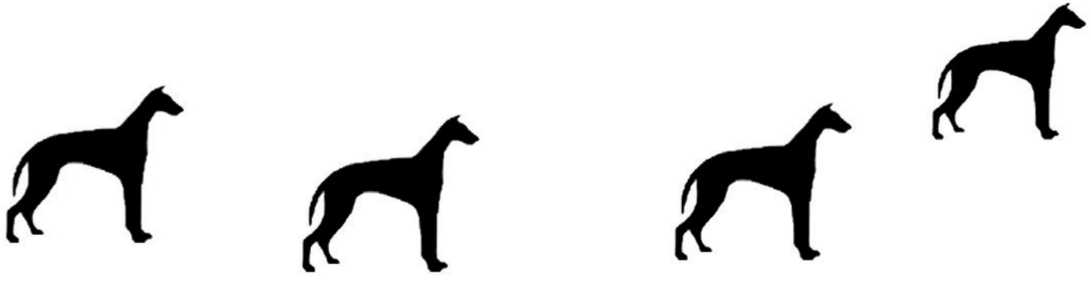
Our park is optimal because we are here every day to personally maintain the grounds, make sure its clean, and do our best to ensure that all of our members are safe and having fun while they are here. We have separate areas for small and large dogs. We provide waste removal bags, and personally scour the park every day for missed deposits. Fresh drinking water for people and dogs is available. Park members may use the tennis balls,frisbees and wading pools we have on hand.

We did not take this endeavor lightly. We consulted three trainers and three veterinarians before opening the park. Future plans include training and agility classes, play groups, and Friday Happy Hour. In 2014, we hope to install an

Emma (Greyhound) and Lucy (Beagle) made friends through the fence

indoor running arena for use during inclement weather. The possibilities are endless.

The goal of Lucky Dog Park is to provide a clean, safe environment for dogs and their people to play and socialize. We are working hard to build a community of responsible dog owners who appreciate what Lucky Dog Park has to offer, and they find value in it.



Editor's note:
Ellen makes it sound so easy! It wasn't. This article is a nitty gritty synopsis of the steps Ellen and Bob Paulus took to bring the concept to fruition. If you like the idea and want more detail, look for a follow up article in a future issue.

Agility Play Happy Hour Agility Play Happy Hour Agility Play Happy Hour Agility Play Happy Hour

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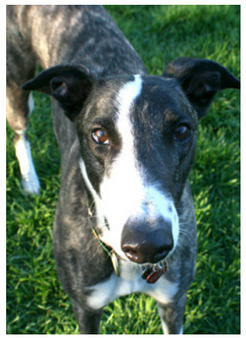

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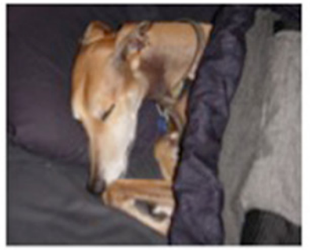

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