



The Dog Guardian

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Leash Law Enforcement

Arboretum, Ottawa, ON: Owners and handlers walking dogs off leash at the Arboretum in Ottawa will soon be at risk of being ticketed in accordance with clauses 11 and 12 of the City of Ottawa Bylaws as follows:

11. *Every owner of a dog shall ensure that the dog is kept on a leash and under the control of some person when the dog is on any land in the City unless:*

(a) *the land is the premises of the owner of the dog,*

(b) *the land is owned by a person who has given prior consent to the dog being off the leash,*

(c) *the land is parkland that is:*

(i) *owned by the City, and*

(ii) *not designated by sign as an area where dogs are prohibited.*

12. *Despite clause (c) of Section 11, in the case of parkland that is,*

(a) *owned by the City, and*

(b) *designated by sign as an area where dogs are required to be kept on the leash,*

every owner of a dog shall ensure that the dog is kept on a leash and under the control of some person when the dog is in the area designated by sign.

The fine for dogs off leash in an area designated on leash is \$125.



Travers
Photo compliments of Rob Quinn

The decision to invite City of Ottawa Bylaw Officers to enforce leash laws at the Arboretum, which is federal land that comes under the jurisdiction of Agriculture Canada, came as a complete surprise to dog walkers, who have been permitted to walk dogs off leash, without penalty, since the 1930's.

Dog walkers may wish to write to their Member of Parliament and the Minister of Agriculture Canada as follows:

The Honourable Gerry Ritz
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Sir John Carling Building
930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

St. James Park and Hideaway Park, Toronto, ON: In 2007 the City of Toronto introduced the "People, Dogs and Parks" Strategy, an initiative intended to create consistent regulations for the city's few existing off-leash areas as well as providing consistency for new areas. The policy also introduced an annual review of all off-leash parks.

Since then, the tension has been building as communities fight over traditionally shared areas, such as Hideaway Park, while other off-leash areas such as High Park are threatened with a reduction of their areas. St. James Park, Withrow Park and the Beaches have also seen a noticeable increase in leash enforcement since the introduction of the policy. Fines average \$260. To put this in perspective, a driver would have to be going 40km over the speed limit on the highway to be charged a similar amount.

Clashes between dog owners and other park users have been increasing for more than a decade and the fight for greenspace is a bitter one. The reasons are numerous but a fundamental component of the feud is education, or rather a lack of it on the part of both dog owners and non-dog owners. Responsible Dog Owners of Canada promotes responsible dog ownership and public safety through education and support, respect for the rights and privileges of all members of society, recognition for the contribution that dogs make in society through companionship, service/assistance and therapy work and a strong network of responsible dog owners to ensure the restoration and preservation of dog-friendly communities. Those wishing to work towards these goals in the Toronto area should contact Tracy Chong at toronto@responsibledogowners.ca (control key + click to follow link).

RDOC Acquires Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test™

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada is pleased to announce that it has taken legal ownership of the Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test™ (CCGCT™) and is working to re-introduce the program across Canada.

What is the Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test™?

The Canine Good Citizen Test™ was developed by the Human Animal Bond Association of Canada to promote responsible dog ownership and reinforce the acceptance of dogs as good citizens in communities.

The CCGC Test™ is a ten-step test open to all dogs one year of age or older. It is given in a realistic setting and relaxed atmosphere to



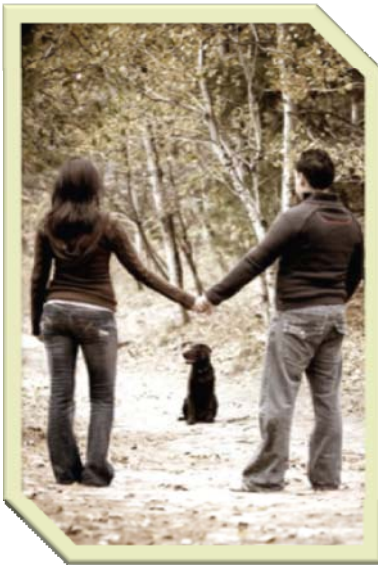
Photo compliments of Natalie Heath

[Hhttp://www.heathphoto.ca](http://www.heathphoto.ca)H (control key + click to follow link)

ascertain if a dog owner has trained and conditioned their dog to act in a mannerly fashion in the home, public places and in the presence of other dogs. The test identifies and rewards owners who have successfully trained their dog to be a respected canine member of the community. The CCGC Test™ is an assessment of a dog's manners and training. It is not a competition and does not require that the handler and the dog perform with precision.

Why a test?

It is only through some kind of test that a dog's manners in public places can be assessed. It is useful to have a standardized form of evaluating dog behaviour under real life conditions. The CCGC Test™ was developed in Canada by Canadians advocating modern non-aversive training methods. It encourages responsible dog ownership and good dog behaviour in everyday surroundings.



Canadian Canine Good Citizen training is fun and functional. Many dog owners select the Canadian Canine Good Citizen training as a first step in preparing their dogs for other training and sporting activities such as therapy work, obedience, agility, search and rescue and performance events. Through the training exercises, dog owners benefit from many joys and rewards, including a closer bond with their dogs.

What are the benefits of CCGC™ Certification?

Upon successful completion of the test, the owner is awarded a CCGCT™ certificate signifying that he or she is a responsible dog owner who has taken the time and effort to provide their dog with basic good manners and that, on the day of testing, the dog demonstrated that it is a socially acceptable dog.

Dogs that have solid obedience training are a pleasure to live with, adapt well to a human living environment, exhibit good manners in the presence of people and other dogs and are content in the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation and an enriched quality of life.

The following are some benefits:

- ✓ Dog owners learn how well their canine companions behave under normal on-the-street around other people and dogs.
- ✓ Dog owners can proudly display the CCGC Test™ Certificate with the Responsible Dog Owners of Canada seal that signifies that on the day of testing the dog demonstrated good basic manners and behaviour.
- ✓ Dog owners will appreciate that their well-behaved dogs are more readily accepted wherever they go because of their good manners.

- ✓ Dogs will be much happier because they will be able to spend more time with their humans in many more places.

The Canadian Canine Good Citizen Test™

The CCGC Test takes place in a public setting with appropriate distractions. A vaccination certificate, licence, a grooming tool, a plastic bag and a leash with a buckle collar, body harness or martingale collar are required for this test. A dog straining on its lead or touching anyone with teeth or feet is unacceptable and, therefore, a failure.

Test Number 1 - Accepting a friendly stranger:

Owner shakes hands with a friendly stranger. This test displays a dog's acceptance of unfamiliar adults and children.

Test Number 2 - Patiently sitting for petting: A test for shyness and defence of personal space.

Test Number 3 - Appearance and grooming: Reveals owner's care and sense of responsibility for their dog.

Test Number 4 - Out for a walk: Illustrates handler's control of his or her dog.

Test Number 5 - Walking through a crowd: Demonstrates that the dog moves around in a crowd without being unduly distressed and is under handler control.

Test Number 6 - Response to commands "sit", "down", "stay" and "come": This exercise exhibits that the dog is trained and responds well to its handler/owner.

Test Number 7 - Praise/Interaction: Shows the dog's relationship with its owner and that the dog can be calmed down easily.

Test Number 8 - Reaction to passing dogs: Demonstrates that the dog behaves politely around other dogs.

Test Number 9 - Distractions: Illustrates that the dog is confident when faced with common distractions.

Test Number 10 - Supervised isolation: Reveals that the dog can be left with someone other than its usual handler and will maintain its training and good manners.

CCGC™ Test Evaluators

Want to become a test evaluator? RDOC is currently recruiting CCGC™ Test Evaluators and is accepting applicants who meet the following criteria:

- 1) twenty-one (21) years of age or over;



- 2) current member of Responsible Dog Owners of Canada;
- 3) certified trainer or behaviourist with a recognized institute or association*, or actively involved in canine activities for a minimum of three (3) years or six hundred (600) hours with at least one recognized organization;
- 4) comprehensive knowledge of dog behaviour , e.g. breeding, showing, performance events, obedience training, canine-related education, assistance or therapy animal training, etc. ;
- 5) trained at least one (1) dog that has passed the CCGC™ Test, the Canine Good Neighbour (CGN) Test or the Canine Good Citizen Test (CGC), or has successfully completed a CCGC™ Evaluator Training Program with RDOC;
- 6) prepared to fail dogs that do not meet the standards as a CCGC™ certified dog is considered to be safe and welcome in the community;
- 7) provide one (1) character reference and one (1) reference attesting to your skills with respect to handling and training dogs; all references must be from someone who has known the applicant for three (3) or more years and is not a relative.

Please note that all CCGC evaluators, formerly certified with Human Animal Bond Association of Canada, (HABAC), are considered grandfathered as RDOC evaluators provided they apply for membership with RDOC.

CCGC™ Test for Clubs and Organizations

The CCGC™ Test is a great opportunity for clubs and organizations to earn money, encourage responsible dog ownership and reward responsible dog owners.

Just follow these steps:

- contact RDOC and ask for a test kit and a list of CCGC™ test evaluators;
- set a date, location and cost for the test (test locations should be in a busy, active section of the community);
- advertise the test day in your community;
- conduct the testing, congratulate the successful applicants and commend and encourage those whose dogs require more training to try again;
- send RDOC a copy of the test registration form; and
- send a portion of the profits to RDOC (10% of the proceeds) and bank the remainder of the profits for your organization.



For more information, contact RDOC at 613.228.7764 or e-mail at ccgc@responsibledogowners.ca.

Holiday Hazards are Plentiful



While Poinsettias are not likely to cause anything more than a tummy upset, there are holiday plants that are toxic and sometimes fatal if ingested. Some of the more common holiday flora that can create problems include Christmas Roses, Mistletoe, Holly, and Lilies.

Festive foods that are plentiful and toxic in most homes during the holidays include chocolate. The toxic compounds in chocolate are Theobromine and Caffeine. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include vomiting and diarrhea, seizures, increased heart rate and respirations, tremors, and hyperactivity.

Some types of chocolate are not as harmful as others and the severity of the reaction from ingested chocolate depends largely on the size of the pet and the type of chocolate eaten. White chocolate is the least harmful and dark chocolate and cocoa are the most toxic.

The Interactive Chocolate Chart on the National Geographic website has excellent information regarding chocolate poisoning, see <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2007/10/pets/chocolate-chart-interactive> (control key + click to follow link). You may wish to bookmark this site in case of a chocolate emergency.

Another treat that is harmful to dogs is Xylitol, an ingredient often found in candies and gum, particularly sugar-free brands. Symptoms of Xylitol poisoning include vomiting, weakness, ataxia, depression, seizures, coma, and death.

Other poisonous foods include alcohol, cherry or peach pits, onions, coffee, garlic, grapes, raisins, raw yeast and macadamia nuts.

Non-Food Hazards

Remember dogs, especially puppies, will eat almost anything that is within reach. Holiday lights and extension cords: can cause severe electrical burns and/or electrocution. The chemicals inside lights can also cause serious chemical burns and noxious reactions.

Christmas ornaments can cause lacerations if broken and tinsel and ribbons can become lodged in intestines if swallowed causing life-threatening blockages. Keep potpourris out of reach as well as some may contain traces of strychnine.

Prevention is the best way to ensure you and your pet have a safe and happy holiday. Be sure to keep noxious plants out of reach and keep toxic foods in sealed containers. Most of all, ensure that your pet is supervised when around Christmas lights.

If your pet does ingest food or items that can cause harm, call your vet immediately. A good resource for additional information is the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals website at www.asPCA.org (control key + click to follow link) or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control at 888.426.4435.

Be a Tree



RDOC Bite Prevention Program Volunteers

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada (RDOC) is seeking volunteers for its Bite Prevention Program. RDOC is a registered presenter with Doggone Safe, a not for profit organization dedicated to bite prevention through education, and plans to offer the “Be a Tree” program to children in the spring of 2009.

While there are no official dog bite statistics for Canada, the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) reported that, of all injuries recorded in 1996, one percent (1%) resulted from dog bites or attacks. CHIRPP also reported that injuries associated with dog bites and dog attacks were sustained most frequently by 5-9 year olds (28.5%).

The majority of dog bites and attacks are preventable and education is the foundation of prevention. If you would like to be a part of this important project, the following is a list of the various opportunities.

Administrative Volunteers

- Develop and maintain a data base to accurately record the names of private schools and French elementary schools, contact information, dates of presentation, facilitators etc. The Ottawa Humane Society is responsible for the English elementary schools and RDOC has a mandate to complement their work;
- Develop and review workshop evaluation form(s) and make recommendations for the improvement of materials and of the facilitating approach in classrooms and materials;
- Prepare kits to be sent to schools, e.g. letters regarding program being offered, registration process, description of program, program material for children, etc.;
- Follow-up by sending material to schools, by providing telephone confirmations, etc.;
- Coordinate logistics of workshops, i.e. dates, venues, facilitator(s) – school contacts, contact facilitators for availability, etc.
- Keep track of costs e.g. photocopies, stamps and credits (attendance fee per presentation).

“Be a Tree” Facilitators

- Prepare and organize material for workshops;
- Facilitate workshops;
- Evaluate workshops.

Volunteers should also note the following:

- a) Workshop facilitators in schools **must** like children, be affable and responsible and clear an Ottawa Police security check. RDOC will cover the costs pertaining to a security check.
- b) Activities may change to better meet the needs of our clients. Other activities may also be added for the same purpose.

For more information, please contact MariLyse Dumas at marilyse@responsibledogowners.ca. To volunteer for this program, please contact Julie More at membership@responsibledogowners.ca.

Discount for Service Animal Owners

Effective immediately, WAG Pet Shop (Ottawa, Ontario) offers a 10% discount on food to owners of service animals.



Ottawa's first truly pet-friendly café has plenty of room to sit, enjoy a coffee or tea and read the paper, check your emails, chat with friends or browse around the cool dog and cat supplies, including the healthiest dog and cat food lines available.

WAG is located at 1071 Bank Street across from the Mayfair Theatre. Free parking is available at the corner of Bank and Sunnyside. For those who use public transit, WAG is located on OC Transpo Route Numbers 1 and 7.

For information, call 613.730.4647 or check out their website at www.wagpetshop.ca (control key + click to follow link).

From Here to Eternity *From Here to Eternity*

As every pet owner knows, the most difficult part of loving an animal is letting go. Sometimes, pet owners are forced to give the final gift of love and free their furry companion from a body that is no longer kind. Sometimes a pet will leave on his or her own terms or a tragic event will end a life. However pets cross the Rainbow Bridge, they are family members and, when they pass, the loss can be overwhelming and the grief agonizing.



Not so long ago, when a pet passed away, there was usually a backyard burial or the veterinarian arranged for cremation. Today, there are many more options for those who want to honour the unconditional bond of a friend that was a vital part of life and love. However, because most pet owners do not think about the final journey, they are not aware of the services available.

Very recently, we learned about Jocelyne Monette and Eternal Companions Pet Memorial Centre and we were so impressed with the services provided, we knew we had to share with our readership.

Eternal Companions Pet Memorial Centre was founded with the single purpose of helping animal-loving people mourn, memorialize and celebrate the life they shared with their companions. They offer a sanctuary filled with compassion, acceptance and healing; a gathering place for human and animal friends to pay their final respects with grace and dignity. They are people who have experienced the same deep bonds with their pets as you have with yours.

The services they provide include:

- 24 hour assistance
- Home and Hospital Service
- Burial Services
- Memorial Options
- DVD Certifications
- Grief Support
- Pre-Planning and Funeral Planning Consultant.

Eternal Companions Pet Memorial Centre has a selection of unique keepsakes to honour your beloved companion and the memories of your life together. Whether a locket, a blown-glass ash memorial, a DVD montage, framed paw prints or an embroidered blanket, there is a memento that will help you to remember that love never dies.

As most pet owners can attest, handling the final arrangements for your cherished furry friend can be devastating and we, therefore, suggest you do a little research before you need to make the difficult decisions. It will allow you to reflect on how you would like to honour your pet when the time comes. For more information, visit www.eternalcompanions.ca (control key + click to follow link). In Ottawa, call 613.566.2100 or call toll free at 1.866.302.0500.



VOLUNTEER CORNER by Julie More

RDOC is developing many new programs and I am happy to say we are getting more volunteers. Thank you everybody. We couldn't run the programs without you.

In this newsletter I would like to make a special mention of Kit Watson (Ottawa, Ontario). Kit helped out at the RDOC information table at the BARK Walk-a-thon. She also put in many hours helping out at the Going to the Dogs fundraiser.

Then there is the Pet insurance project. Kit helped design the survey, did a lot of research and co-authored the article about pet insurance in our last newsletter. She is helping to design the Bite Prevention Program.

Kit and her husband Cliff are owned by their cat Oreo and Hugo, their guide dog puppy in training.

Thanks Kit for all your help. You sure make my job as volunteer coordinator easy.



Responsible Dog Owners of Canada extends its sincere condolences to John Seguin of Ottawa, Ontario in the loss of Tucker, his beloved canine companion.

Dinner and Murder Mystery Night

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada is pleased to present a Valentine's Day Dinner and Murder Mystery Night at the Player's Club (Rideau Carleton Raceway).

Nothing says "I love you" better than blood and chocolate and this evening offers Rideau Carleton's famous all-you-can-eat buffet, complimentary chocolate kisses, the suspenseful and zany antics of the Eddie May Troupe in "Idol Threats" and a bonus \$5 coupon for the SLOTS.

Also included is a chance to win a complimentary one-night stay for two in the luxurious VIP Room at the Cartier Place Suite Hotel, donated by Cartier Place Suite Hotel and a \$50 gift certificate for Café Mezzaluna, donated by Café Mezzaluna.

A raffle prize, generously donated by REMAX, includes two tickets for a ride in the REMAX Hot Air Balloon.

Tickets are \$48 per person. Tickets are limited and must be reserved before February 5, 2009. To purchase tickets or to obtain more information, contact RDOC at info@responsibledogowners.ca or call 613.228.7764.



They're Good Pet People

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Francine Paradis and Maria Vila of Pet Valu in Manotick Mews, Ontario for hosting a barbeque and photo shoot fundraiser on October 17 & 18 for Responsible Dog Owners of Canada and Canines with a Cause. A total of \$1000, which included a personal donation from Francine and Maria, was divided between the two organizations. RDOC volunteers were invited to set up a booth during the two-day event and during that time had an opportunity to talk to Francine and Maria and check out the store. We were thrilled to learn that Francine



Francine and Nina

and Maria are dedicated pet owners themselves and go the extra mile to provide you and your pet the finest in nutrition and supplies.

True blue animal lovers, Francine and Maria have four dogs, five cats, 5 canaries and 5 finches (hand-raised) so you know that they have personal experience of raising and caring for your furry or feathered friend.



Maria decorating for the photo shoot fundraiser

Francine and Maria recently opened a new pet resort and invite you to try their boarding services. For more information, contact Francine or Maria at 613.692.1769.

Winter and Your Dog

by Lauren Osborne



There are many ways to protect your dog from harsh winter weather.

In extreme cold (minus 15 centigrade or more), put boots on your dog's feet if he is showing signs of freezing paws. Take your dog with you to the pet store to ensure you get the right fit. Excess fur on the feet and lower legs can make it difficult for boots to stay on. Consider having his feet and legs trimmed to accommodate the boots.

If there is no way your dog will tolerate boots, you can use skin permeable spray foam which will protect his skin from toxic road salt. You can also try grooming show products that go on the pads. This will help your dog to keep from slipping on ice.

Keep the fur between his under pads trimmed short so that snow doesn't collect and freeze into balls.

Does your dog need a coat? He does if he is noticeably shivering when you take him outside. If he is long haired, look for a coat with a nylon lining instead of fleece. The nylon won't cause his hair to tangle.

There are nylon trouser suits available which will keep him clean and dry on those slushy, wet winter days. They have openings on the underside so he can still relieve himself.

With the right protection, there is no reason why both of you can't enjoy winter!

Note: Laureen Osborne is a Master Groomer and the author of "The Pet Owner's Guide to Dog Grooming" available at www.Larkspurpublications.com.

Inside RDOC

At a recent RDOC Board of Directors meeting, the Directors agreed that the organization should apply for charitable status. RDOC has been a registered not for profit organization since November 2002. With a charitable designation, RDOC will be able to issue income tax receipts. Approval of a charitable designation will take anywhere from a year to 18 months.

RDOC would like to extend a warm welcome to Lorraine Green and Tracy Chong, two new Directors. Lorraine will take charge of the Canadian Canine Good Citizen™ Program and Tracy will be responsible for the Toronto Chapter of RDOC.



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa,

Winter Solstice and New Year

Whatever you are celebrating during the festive season, on behalf of Responsible Dog Owners of Canada, we wish you and your family the very best during the holidays. We also wish everyone health and prosperity for 2009.

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada (RDOC)

Responsible Dog Owners of Canada is a registered non profit organization that promotes responsible dog ownership through education and support, cultivates respect for the rights and privileges of members of the dog-owning and non dog-owning communities, fosters recognition of the contribution that canines make through companionship, service/assistance and therapy and aspires to assemble a strong network of responsible dog owners to ensure the restoration and preservation of a dog-friendly society.

Responsibility • Respect • Recognition

Contact Information

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www.responsibledogowners.ca