

The Dog Guardian

Newsletter for Responsible Dog Owners of Canada

SPRING 2018

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Enjoy reading the newsletter 😊



Highlights by Julie More

RDOC is very proud of **Gabe Parent** for winning RDOC's first Safety Award. Thank you, Gabe, for pointing out that *"You shouldn't over-tire /over-stimulate your dog or puppy with too much play. It makes dogs grumpy and puppies feisty and bite."* Go to the **Dogs' Den** section of the newsletter to read the dog trio's (Tyler, Morgan and Nellie's) comments.

We are sorry that Candice has retired from the board, but are glad that she is staying on as a member. Candice is very knowledgeable, plus she is a lot of fun at events!

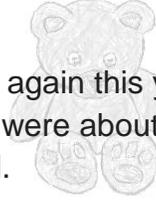
This newsletter has a section for everybody:

- For kids - our youngest Responsible Dog Owners can participate in our **colouring contest**. Got a good safety tip? Email it to us, and you may win the RDOC **Summer Safety Award**.
- For adults - check out our article on **buying a condo** where dogs are welcome.
- For fundraisers – our **'Going to the Dogs' Fundraiser** is back. It will be held on Sunday, July 8th. Check out our article - [we need volunteers](#).
- For Responsible Dog Owners – please note the **2018 park clean-ups schedule**.
- For gift givers - don't know what to give your friend for Easter, or a new puppy owner, or a new neighbour with a 4-legged friend? Consider our **RDOC Membership Gift Certificates**.

Board News

What a busy couple of months! We had our AGM on Sunday, November 19th. Unfortunately, our online auction in December was very disappointing, and we will not repeat it. However, the **'Take Your Owner for a Walk and Support RDOC' fundraiser** was a great success, and we will hold it again in September. We decided to put on another **'Going to the Dogs' Fundraiser** at the racetrack this summer.

We will participate in the **Teddy Bear picnic** again this year. It's lots of fun, and it was nice to see how much more knowledgeable the children were about dog safety last year over the previous year. These educational events are very beneficial.



We are sorry to announce that Candice has resigned from the board. Fortunately, she is staying on as a RDOC member, so we will still benefit from her vast knowledge of dogs, organizations etc.

A letter to Candice by Julie More

Candice, RDOC is very sad that you decided to resign from our board. However, we are very happy you are staying on as a RDOC member. Your knowledge of the organization, dogs, fundraising etc. is amazing. We will be calling on your expertise a lot!

Let's walk down memory lane - you were one of the founders of the National Capital Coalition for People and Dogs (NCCPD), which later became RDOC. (For our younger folks 😊 - NCCPD was started because the National Capital Commission (NCC) decided they were no longer going to allow dogs on NCC land.) The two organizations negotiated at length, and thanks to NCCPD we now have on-leash and off-leash parks on NCC land.

Here is some more history from Jill, our webmaster:

"Candice, I have known you ever since the NCCPD's beginnings. It was originally dedicated to keeping Ottawa's Bruce and Conroy Pits off-leash, and then you turned your sights on other Ottawa area parks and open spaces. You are a tough negotiator! You worked tirelessly against breed specific legislation. I remember our march in Ottawa, protesting the pit bull ban (see the photo below!). And you have always been involved in fundraising events such as the 'Eddie May Theatre Group Murder Mystery' dinners, and 'Going to the Dogs.' What would we do without you?!"

Candice, you are a great fundraiser. Ivan agrees: "Candice buys up half the items at our annual garage sale herself!"

However, punctuality is not one of your strong points 😊. Ivan wrote: "Candice is sure to arrive at our meetings sometime before they are adjourned." However one time you were very early. Claudette pointed out: "Candice is always late, except for one meeting when she was a week early."



I have known you for over 14 years, Candice. You are fun. You are the life of the party. You always look at the bright side of things. You are open to suggestions, however crazy they are. Remember my dog toy testing project?

Like I said in the first part of the letter, your knowledge of dogs etc. is amazing. You are a very good teacher.



'Going to the Dogs' planning meeting, 2017

In case we haven't embarrassed you enough, we thought we would include some pictures 😊. Thank you, Candice, for your years of work for NCCPD and RDOC. We are glad you are staying on as a member.



Candice is good with snakes too! 2005



Presenting a CCGC test award, 2015



Garage sale set-up crew, 2017



The morning after 'Going to the Dogs'

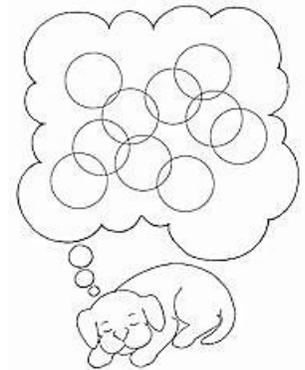


Colouring Contest



Our advice of the month from the 'Fido, Friend or Foe' activity book is to "Never make loud noises around dogs (page 16): Loud noises can frighten a dog. He may jump on you or bite you." This is especially true when the dog is sleeping. After all, how would you like it if somebody yelled at you when you were fast asleep, perhaps dreaming about your favourite food?

Colour the large picture of the sleeping puppy on [the Kids Activity Page](#). Scan or take a photo of the picture you coloured, and send it to us at morejulie@hotmail.com with your email address. We will choose a winner each month and post it in our newsletter for everybody to see.



Never make loud noises around dogs.

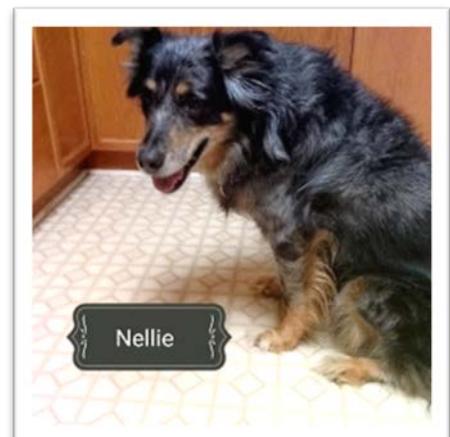
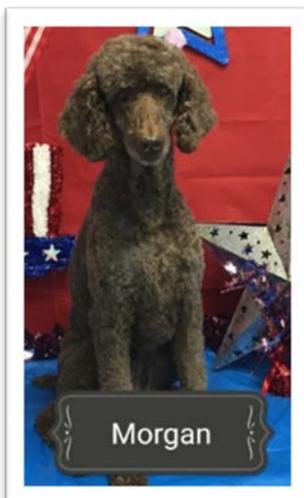
Dogs and Kids Safety Project

In the [Winter 2017 newsletter](#) we talked about our new fundraiser, '**Take your owner for a walk and support RDOC**'. Our board members' dogs decided to take matters into their own paws to fundraise, and at the same time exercise their owners.

As promised, some of the money raised is being used to expand our educational kids program. We are working on a booklet for 5 to 8 year olds on how to be safe around dogs while having fun.

There is still lots of work to do, but we thought we would give you a preview:

Page 1 - Introduction



“Let us introduce ourselves. We are Morgan, Tyler and Nellie. We write the ‘Dogs’ Den’ articles in the Responsible Dog Owners of Canada (RDOC) Newsletter. Check us out at <http://www.responsibledogowners.ca/newsletters.html>

This story will tell you kids how to be safe around dogs, while having fun with us.

To make the story easy to read, we decided to write things that are **fun and safe** to do **in blue**. Things that we **don't like and are dangerous**, we will write **in red**.

Then we will cover different safety tips, and have some quizzes (and answers, of course) for you.”

From The Dogs' Den

Hi everybody!

The dog trio are back. Yep, that's us - Tyler, Morgan and Nellie. In this newsletter we decided to focus on kids who come up with really good safety tips to make playing with dogs safer. In fact, we decided to present RDOC's first Safety Award to **Gabe Parent**.

Thank you Gabe for pointing out that *“You shouldn't over-tire/over-stimulate your dog or puppy with too much play. It makes dogs grumpy and puppies feisty and bite.”*

That is a very important point. Just like kids, dogs get over-tired too. Sometimes we get so over-excited that we don't know what we are doing. Help us control ourselves by recognizing when we are over-tired, and walking away. Some of us may need to spend quiet time in our own special space (e.g. bed or mat, or crate), just like you spend time in your room.



Good job, Gabe!

Kids like you make our doggie world much safer!

Tyler, Morgan and Nellie

Condo living with your pup by Julie More



You are ready to downsize. The kids left home. You have had enough of shovelling snow and mowing the lawn. Time to move!

“How about a condo?” you wonder. It may be a perfect answer for you, but what about your faithful four-legged companion? How will he like living in an apartment? What about the condo building? Will they welcome a dog? What are the rules, etc.?

My sister is looking to buy a condo, and being a good little sister I helped her in her search. The condo she is thinking of purchasing allows dogs, but only small ones (under 25 lbs). However, they allow bigger dogs to visit (no overnight stay). So my lab will have visiting rights 😊. Some condo buildings don't even allow that. One had a sign at the front entrance, stating that no dog visitors are allowed.

Things are changing. More people want to have dogs in condos. Condo builders are taking note. In the article ‘Condo Scene: Cathedral Hill joins trend in pet-friendly spaces with dog washing station’ ([Ottawa Citizen](#), June 25, 2015), Marilyn Wilson points out that some condo buildings even have pet washing stations at the side entrance. A great idea - wash off the muddy paws; get rid of the winter salt from the roads before it hurts the pup's paws; and a great way to keep the condo lobby and elevator clean.

There are a number of really good articles on the internet. Do your homework before buying a condo. Know what the pet rules are in the building. Just be aware that if there is a complaint about your pet, the condo board will probably rule against you. In the article ‘8 Things to Know About Dogs And Condos’ by Martha Uniacke Breen (<http://www.styleathome.com/how-to/pets/article/8-things-to-know-about-dogs-and-condos>) these are just 2 of the things she points out. Read the article - I found it full of good information.

It looks like even City Hall is taking notice. In the article ‘Animal House: Buying a Condo Your Dog Will Love’ by Monica MacMillan (September 23rd, 2015 http://www.urbaner.com/blog/buying_a_condo_your_dog_will_love) she points out that “...Toronto city planners are hoping to introduce new bylaws that would make amenities for pets mandatory in condo developments!”

Jill (co-editor of this newsletter) found that in the area of BC where she lives, “Brand new condo buildings may not have dog restrictions. It's when the running of the condo building is turned over to a Condominium Association that all sorts of rules get put in place. That may mean that existing dogs are allowed to remain, but no new dogs can be brought in.”

Looking for a condo when you have a dog, to me is like looking for a place to live when you have little kids. When my kids were small we looked for a house in a kid-friendly neighbourhood that had lots of playgrounds, was close to schools etc. We also preferred a bungalow - easier on the legs when you have to carry little ones up and down!

When searching for a condo for yourself and your dog, look for a pet-friendly building, close to dog parks, walking trails, etc. It's a bonus if the building has a dog wash station etc. Also, getting a unit on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd floor will save you from waiting for the elevator every time your dog needs to go out. I don't know about you, but I can manage going up and down 3 flights of stairs. Anything more than that and I am done for the day!

Let us know your condo experiences - both good and bad. Email morejulie@hotmail.com, and we will print your comments in our next newsletter.

Going to the Dogs Fundraiser

The **'Going to the Dogs' Fundraiser** will be back again this year, on Sunday, July 8th at 5.30 p.m. Come and join us, and bring your friends. Tickets are \$40; however, RDOC members and volunteers will only pay \$35. Consider becoming a member, and save yourself \$5. The ticket includes an all-you-can-eat-buffet, live racing, \$2 race coupon, valet service, coat check, and silent auction.



We are still looking for volunteers to get donations for our **silent auction**, distribute posters, help with publicity, and help on the day of the event. Please email morejulie@hotmail.com and let us know how you would like to help.

Park Clean-Ups

Spring is coming yes, really! That means it's **Park Clean-Ups** time again.

We are starting early this year, at the Stittsville Dog Park on Saturday, May 5th from 9-10 a.m., followed by Bruce Pit on Saturday, May 12th from 9-10 a.m. Yep, I know, that is the day before Mother's Day. So, kids, why don't you give your Mom an early Mother's Day present and help her with the Park Clean-Up (you will be in her good books for ever) 😊. The Conroy Pit clean-up will be on Saturday, May 26th from 9-10 a.m.



Membership

Easter will be here soon. What can you give to your friend, neighbour, or family member? Never fear RDOC comes to your aid! How about an **RDOC membership gift certificate**? These make great presents, not just for Easter, but also for birthdays, Christmas, a new puppy owner, the dog walker, groomer, vet, etc. etc.



And, if you want to be really generous, you can attach a ticket to our '**Going to the Dogs**' **Fundraiser**, which will be held on Sunday, July 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Rideau Carleton Raceway. Because you are purchasing a ticket for an RDOC member, you will save \$5 off the ticket price. A definite win-win situation 😊.

Our membership fees are very reasonable:

- Seniors and Students \$10 (volunteers get 50% discount)
- Adults and Family \$20 (volunteers get 50% discount)
- Not-for-Profit Organizations \$35
- Corporations and Businesses \$50

To join RDOC or to renew your membership, please email: inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca
or go to our website at: www.responsibledogowners.ca/membership.html



A big thank you goes to our committee for proofreading this newsletter. We really appreciate your help. You are the greatest. 😊

A special thank you to Kit Watson for the final proofreading of the newsletter.

Dates featured in this newsletter:

Stittsville Dog Park clean-up: Saturday, May 5, 9-10 a.m.

Bruce Pit clean-up: Saturday, May 12, 9-10 a.m.

Conroy Pit clean-up: Saturday, May 26, 9-10 a.m.

Teddy Bear Picnic: Saturday June 23

'Going to the Dogs' Fundraiser: Sunday, July 8, 5:30 p.m.

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Contact RDOC by:

E-mail: inquiries@responsibledogowners.ca

Phone: 613-868-2201 Please leave a message

Write to us at:

RDOC, 24 Elderwood Trail,
Stittsville, ON K2S 1C9, Canada

Or visit us online at:

www.responsibledogowners.ca

