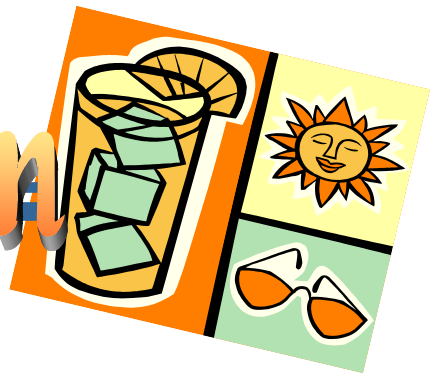




# NewsGram



July/August 2008



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR (upcoming events)

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – DOG'S NIGHT OUT:** Does your dog complain that you never take her anywhere? Now you have a chance to get back in her good graces when you and your favorite pooch celebrate your special friendship during “*Dog's Night Out*” in conjunction with the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Month. Event sponsors *Five Flags Dog Training Club* and *Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association* will present agility, obedience, and Flyball demonstrations. Other activities include prizes and games for you and your dog, a low-cost Micro Chip clinic, chance to meet a variety of breeds of dog and lots of dog goodies to buy. There will also be a performance by the Country Canine Square Dancers. Event will be held Tuesday evening, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Escambia County Equestrian Center on Mobile Hwy. Admission is free to the public. For more information visit: <http://www.fiveflagsdogs.com>

**September 27<sup>th</sup> – FT WALTON BEACH DOG DAZE:** Spend the day with your favorite canine companion at the beautiful Fort Walton Landing. Held in conjunction with the AKC Responsible Pet Ownership program, this popular all day event includes music, pet readings, and canine demonstrations, as well as games and contests for dogs and their owners. Watch the Agility & Dachshund Races or have your dog run the Doggy Fun Zone lure course. Take the Canine Good Citizen Test, have your pet micro-chipped, or arrange to get a great photo. Don't forget to check out the Bowser Bazaar to buy your doggy related merchandise. Goody Bags and clean-up bags with registration donation. Come and have fun ALL DAY! Hours are 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. <http://www.fwbchamber.org/Dog-Daze.57.0.html>

**October 4<sup>th</sup> – BARKTOBERFEST 2008:** The Humane Society of Pensacola invites you to the 2008 Barktoberfest to be held Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> in Seville Square, downtown Pensacola from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Event will include pet contests, a pet photo contest, demonstrations, pet portraits, live entertainment, painting & drawing contest and product vendors. For more information visit <http://www.barktoberfestpensacola.com>



## CURRENT EVENTS:

**“Walking the Dog...”** – If you and your fur kid need a reason to take an evening stroll together, come join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 at the Bayview Dry Park. The group walks through East Hill for about 45 minutes, changing the route weekly to keep it interesting. Be sure and wear comfortable shoes and bring pick-up bags for your pooch and plenty of water for both of you.

**“Yappy Hour” arrives in Pensacola** – Mark your calendars for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and come chill out with your friends and your favorite fur kid at one of several local eateries who have opened their decks to well-behaved dogs and their owners. Next Wednesday (Jun 18<sup>th</sup>) we will be at the Oar House at 6:00 pm. (Weather permitting, of course). The Oar House is located at the South End of Pace Blvd adjacent to Bahia Mar Marina (1901 Cypress). A head count in advance would be nice if we want to reserve a table. While dogs are welcome, they are not required for attendance! Come join us. For future locations, look for a message on the yahoo list or call either Nikki (850-433-8050) or Lois (850-516-5319) for the location of the month.



## **PDOA NEWS DESK (News & Updates)**

**A New President for PDOA** – As you now know, our President, **Buddy Garrett**, recently accepted a new job which has taken him out of the country for six months to a year and while he is happy with the new position, it unfortunately made it necessary for him to resign as our President. We wish him well and look forward to his returning and rejoining the ranks of the PDOA. In his absence, the membership, at our recent General Meeting, unanimously chose **Nikki Bloodworth** to take over the reins as President and guide us through the coming months. Congratulations, Nikki, we are all behind you.

**Meet your new Board of Directors** – With the selection of our new President, a couple of folks were added to the Board to make sure we have the manpower to continue with the goals and activities of PDOA. Your Board now consists of:

President/Events: **Nikki Bloodworth**

Vice-President: **Lois Silberstein**

Secretary: **Sara Harris**

Treasurer: **Pat Young**

Membership: **Connie Fleming**

Members at Large: **David Bush, Cindy Hosler & Raisa Overstreet**



### **MEMBER STORY OF THE MONTH:** from our new President, Nikki Bloodworth

Recently, while I was in New Orleans on business, I chose to board Coco here and take only Nutmeg with me. She's such a seasoned traveler--absolutely no problem on the road. Coco on the other hand, is very high-maintenance and has a much better time playing with all his friends at the Pet Resort.

The trip was crazy-busy and Nutmeg behaved perfectly, as usual. I kind of thought she & I would have a "bonding" experience alone together, but she was actually a little subdued. She seemed almost lost without Coco. Could this be?

When we got home, I was a little concerned that Nuttie would be jealous of Coco so when I picked him up at the Resort, I bought her along for the ride. Both dogs acted as if they had been apart for just an afternoon--it was very anticlimactic!

Later that evening however, when we were all lounging on the couch, Nutmeg jumped down, walked over to where Coco was lying, stood up on her hind legs, and started licking his face while frantically wagging her tail. Then, she jumped back up on the couch and snuggled in next to him.

I am so proud of Nuttie--maybe she really DOES love Coco!



### **ANOTHER LESSON IN DOG PARK BEHAVIOR**

Today, dog parks are as common as playgrounds. In fact, some people say that dogs are the new "kids," but it's important to remember that dogs are very different than your average preschoolers. If you take your dog to the dog park, follow these safety tips:

- Before taking your dog to the park, visit it alone. Have a look at the park's posted rules. Ask other dog owners about the vibe at the park—are the other dogs friendly? Are they mostly big or small dogs?
- Make sure that your dog is socialized to other dogs. Some dogs are afraid of or aggressive toward other dogs. If you have an anti-social pup, consult a behaviorist or trainer to help you socialize him before you become a regular at the dog park.
- When you first take your dog to the dog run, try to go during an off-peak hour. It can be very crowded after work or on weekends and your dog may be intimidated by all of the activity. Make sure his first experience at the park is fun!



- Be certain that your dog's vaccinations are up to date before taking him to the park.
- Never take a female in heat to the park. Some parks have rules against intact males.
- Remove your dog's leash as soon as you enter the park. Leash aggression is common when one dog is on a leash and the others aren't.
- Keep a flat or rolled nylon or leather collar on your dog at all times. Remove a choke or prong collar if you use one.
- If you bring toys to the dog park, prepare to share them with other dogs. If your dog is not good at sharing, leave his beloved toys at home.
- If you bring treats, make sure they are secure in a pouch or pocket. Other dogs will hound you for a treat—ask their owners before you indulge them.



- Recognize the difference between play and aggression. Some dogs play roughly and growl or bark. Many dogs like this level of play, and those that don't usually avoid the rambunctious player.
- Recognize aggressive behavior—this includes raised hackles, bared teeth, and growling. If your dog is being aggressive, call him to you and remove him from the park for the day. If another owner's dog is the aggressor, let him or her know that you feel uncomfortable with the way their dog is behaving—but do it nicely!
- If a fight breaks out, don't get in the middle of it! Throw something into the fray, like a coat, or turn a hose on the brawlers. If your dog is involved in the fight, remove him for the day. Do not grab your dog by the collar if he's in an aggressive mode; this will only fuel his hostility. If your dog is not involved in

the fight, grab him before he can join in.

- Dogs can team up on other dogs, so watch that a weaker dog doesn't wind up on the wrong end of a gang fight.
- Watch your dog at all times. It's inappropriate to leave your dog in the run by himself, talk on your cell phone, or read a book.
- Don't bring young children to the dog park. If you do, bring an older child and enforce a few rules: Don't approach a dog you don't know until you ask the owner if the dog likes kids; don't run around making loud noises, which could provoke the prey drive in some dogs; don't try to take a toy or food away from any dog; and always keep your shoes on.
- Above all, have fun!

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**Pensacola Dog Owners Association**

<http://www.pensacoladogowners.org/>

Questions, comments and inputs to the NewsGram may be directed to [conniefleming@cox.net](mailto:conniefleming@cox.net)