



RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB

PAWPRINTS

"May we be as good, as noble and as deserving as our dogs think we are."

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Don't Let the Rain Dampen the Fun

Wet weather can still be a great opportunity for bonding, play, and enrichment with your dog.



NEXT MEMBERS MEETING TBA / 7:30PM

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Letter from the President

Greetings One and All!

Wow! Rand Park put on a wonderful trial! I would like to thank each and every volunteer who made our trial a success. We received a number of compliments and one exhibitor sent Erin a thank you card for a well run trial. It takes a village and we did it! Thank you all!



Our move to the building is coming along. We have had a couple of hiccups along the way, such as the change of classification from retail to training. We had to have an architect draw up building plans and all the other requirements the Chief Building Official required. Thankfully our contractor was on it and it touch with the city. I know the big question is the ADA bathroom..... yes, it is nearing completion.

Our next 2 items which need to be completed are the Certificate of Occupancy and the our Business License. We will then be ready to hold classes. In the meantime we will have a designated weekend to lay the new padded flooring and we'll keep you posted for the date which it will happen. Stay tuned! We are also looking for someone to help us freshen up our website. Please let us know if you have some time to help us with our website project.

Thank you to all members Helene Wolfe and Gloria & Bill Urquhart for donating chairs and a coat rack to the new building. We are looking for a leaf blower and a vaccuum so if anyone has one they are not using, we can definitely use it.

Also, a big shout out to the regulars and their group leader Barb, who attend the nursing home visits every month. The visits are on hiatus until September. It gets a bit toasty in the nursing home for the dogs over the summer. We'll post the date in August when the visits will resume.

I am very grateful for all of our members who do so much for our club, especially our instructors who have had to teach in a toasty gym the past 2 weeks.

Warm regards,

Birgit

Letter from the Secretary



PACK WALK OUTINGS TO START

- Tuesdays, 6:30 pm from June 23rd thru July 28th
- 6 Scheduled Walks with a different location each day
- Great Opportunity to earn points towards your Fit Dog Titles - Bronze, Silver and Gold

[Scroll down to Pack Walk \(Page 9\) for more details](#)



**Our mailing address has changed!
Send us a postcard from some cool
place you've taken your dog!**

RPDTC

1530 Lee Street

Des Plaines, IL 60018

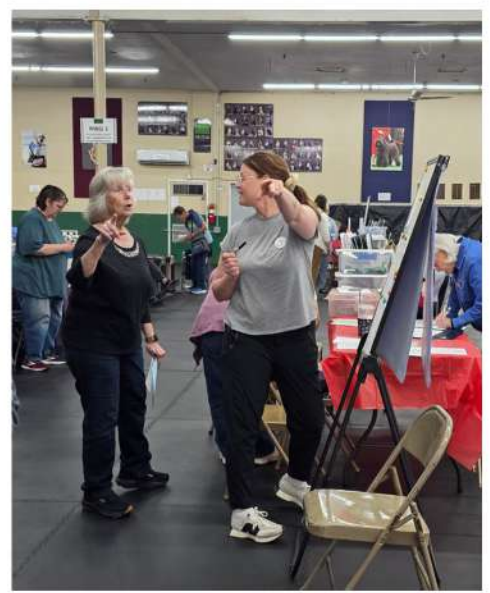
Respectfully,

Martha Nelson

rpdtc.secretary@gmail.com

RPDTC TRIAL EVENT RECAP

CONGRATULATIONS RAND PARK ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TRIAL EVENT!
BE SURE TO SEE THE BRAG GALLERY FOR ALL OUR WINNING STUDENTS!







A HUGE THANK YOU!

To all of our super volunteers who made the Rand park trials a success!
We received many compliments from the exhibitors on a well-run trial.
The judges valued their hard-working stewards and the delicious food served by
hospitality.

The clean up crew hustled so we could go home Sunday afternoon
and relax after 3 days of trials.

Thank you one and all!



EVENT COMMITTEE

Erin Straka - *Trial Chairperson*

Martha Nelson - *Chief Rally Ring Steward*

Margaret Henning - *Chief Obedience Ring Steward*

Erin Straka & Julie Minbirole - *Trophies*

Paul Straka - *Hospitality*

Kathy Baureis & Birgit Mantilla - *Volunteer Raffle*

STEWARDS

Audrey Drechsler

Lois Mayer Yep

Birgit Mantilla

Sue Bowman

Kathy Henning

Liana Rozo

Julie Minbirole

Gloria Urquhart

Bill Urquhart

Jill Spooner

Todd Doerpinghaus

Erin Straka

END-OF-DAY DUTIES

Danielle Sofia

Brandon Middleton

**NEXT CHICAGO DOG
DAY IS SEPTEMBER**

**SUMMER BREAK UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 2026!**



SUMMER PACK WALKS

Join Martha this summer for a 6-week series of structured Pack Walks designed to promote calm leash manners, socialization, and community connection among dogs and their handlers.



~~JUNE 23rd~~

JUNE 30th

JULY 7th

JULY 14th

JULY 21st

JULY 28th

What Is a Pack Walk?

A Pack Walk is a guided group walk where trainers and their dogs walk together in a controlled, structured environment. While humans enjoy conversation and community, dogs are expected to remain calm, walk politely on leash, and practice good manners in a group setting.

Over the course of six weeks, we will visit six different local parks. Most locations will be in Des Plaines, with select walks in Glenview and Northbrook. Each walk will be approximately 1 to 1.5 miles.

Why Participate?

These walks are a fun way to stay active, connect with other Rand Park members, and share time with people who love dogs as much as you do. They also provide valuable real-world training experience for dogs learning to remain calm and focused in group settings.

Participation in these walks can also count toward earning AKC Fit Dog titles, giving you and your dog an opportunity to achieve recognized fitness goals together.

Important Equipment Information

To qualify for AKC Fit Dog mileage, dogs must be walked on an approved collar, such as a flat buckle collar, martingale collar, or chain collar. Handlers may choose to use a prong collar for added control in new environments if needed; however, walks completed using a prong collar will not count toward Fit Dog title mileage.

Attendance & Communication

We understand that summer schedules are busy, and you may not be able to attend every walk. A group chat will be created for all participants to share updates and communicate. If you are unable to attend a walk, simply send a quick message to the group. The chat will also be used for last-minute updates, especially weather-related changes. If you do not use text messaging, please let Martha know in advance so alternative arrangements can be made.

Participation Option

An optional \$25 donation covers all six weeks of walks and helps support the program. We look forward to walking with you and your dogs this summer!



**TO JOIN IN OR FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT MARTHA NELSON
VIA EMAIL OR CALL (847) 331-5124**

EVENTS HAPPENING

Introducing the NEW



AKC FIT DOG Star-Spangled Scurry

We're celebrating America's 250th anniversary with a new scurry supporting the [United States War Dogs Association!](#) Fetch your medal to get started.



Fetch Your Medal to Register

Sign up with a \$20 registration fee, which is completed by purchasing your [official AKC Star-Spangled Scurry medal](#).



Start Moving

Walk or run **5K (3.1 miles)** with your dog anytime before **August 15th** — do it all at once or split into multiple sessions. The AKC Star-Spangled Scurry is done on an honor system.



Celebrate America's 250th with the 2026 AKC FIT DOG Star-Spangled Scurry

Participate in the Virtual 5K with your dog. Enjoy a non-competitive event celebrating the 250th anniversary of...

 American Kennel Club



Choose Your Own Route

Complete your 5K anywhere you and your dog enjoy being active, whether that's your neighborhood, a local park, a hiking trail, or with your **AKC FIT DOG® Club**.



Celebrate Your Accomplishment

Proudly show off your medal and share your achievement using [#AKCStarSpangledScurry](#) while helping preserve the legacy of the canine heroes who have served alongside our nation's armed forces.

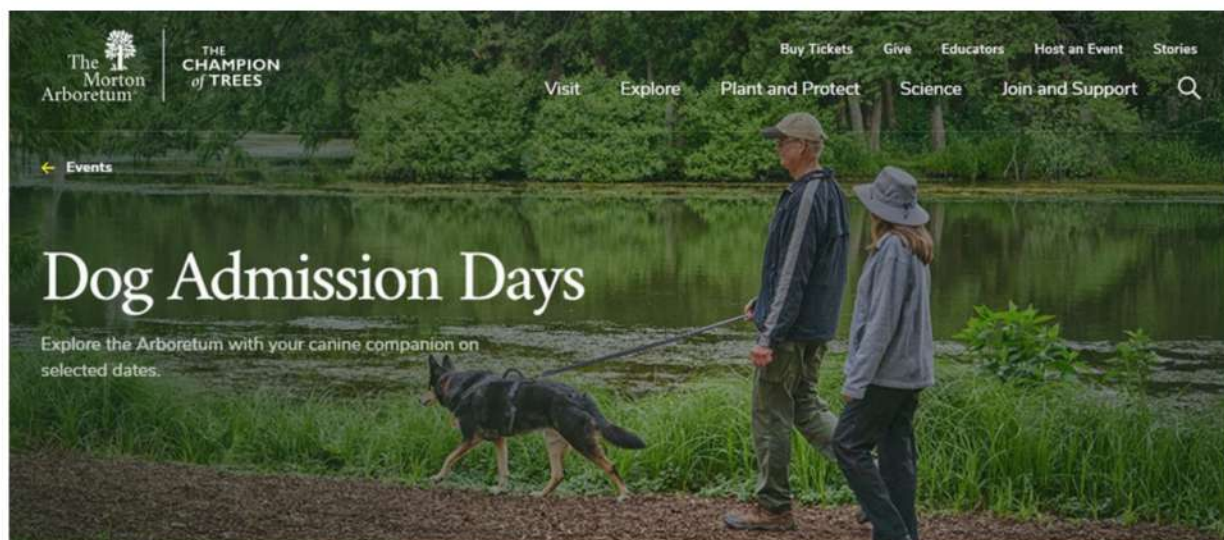


Get Scurrying

Complete your \$20 registration by preordering an AKC Star-Spangled Scurry medal.

WWW.AKC.ORG/SPORTS/AKC-FAMILY-DOG-PROGRAM/AKC-FIT-DOG/FIT-DOG-2026-STAR-SPANGLED-SCURRY-5K

DOG DAYS AT MORTON ARBORETUM



Service dogs are welcome at no cost daily, and should be identified when entering at the gatehouse.

Dogs are welcome on the Arboretum's trails during Dog Admission Days, held on select Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to sunset and select Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to sunset, and from 9:00 a.m. to sunset on [Tails on the Trails](#) [pet expo dates](#).

Arboretum members may bring dogs during exclusive early access hours from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Tails on the Trails dates and on Dog Admission Days that fall on Sundays.

Dogs not designated as service dogs are only allowed on the grounds of the Arboretum on designated Dog Admission Days and for Tails on the Trails events.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 3:00 p.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day (afternoon only)

Sunday, August 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset
Dog Admission Day

[Purchase Arboretum admission](#)

Next Dog Admission
Sunday, July 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to sunset

Select Sundays
9:00 a.m. to sunset
Select Tuesday afternoons
3:00 p.m. to sunset

[Maps and Guides](#)

[Parking and Directions](#)

Need help?
[Contact the ticket line](#)

\$7 per dog admission; \$6 per member dog

[Print this page](#)

<http://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/events/dog-admission-days/#schedule>

CANTIGNY PAWS-IN-THE-PARK DAYS



PAWS IN THE PARK DAYS ARE BACK! 🐾

Bring your leashed sidekick to explore the gardens at Cantigny, roam through the Military Tank Park, and spend a little quality time outdoors together. Paws in the Park Days are only on Mondays, from March through October (excluding holidays).

A few friendly ground rules:

- *Dogs should be well-behaved around people and other pups*
- *Please bring proof of up-to-date vaccinations*
- *Leashes are required at all times (Retractable leashes are not permitted)*
- *Use the sanitation stations and clean up after your pal*

While furry friends can't go inside the buildings, there's plenty of room to roam outside. The park is open until 6 pm, and parking is \$6. 🐕

Purchase your parking here: <https://bit.ly/4cML6ZX>

<http://cantigny.org/event/paws-in-the-park-day-24-2-2-2/2026-03-09>

PAW-SOME PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT!

Dan & “Yoshi”

What a Good Boy!

Yoshi is a very high-energy dog who was struggling with his manners and tolerance of handling early on, but his owners have been putting in great effort with training, and it shows! He is now a very well-behaved dog! His owners have been very happy with the training classes he has been participating in at Rand Park Dog Training Club.

Putting in the effort to train and socialize your dog is a key aspect of dog ownership, and something we recommend for all canine patients. Not only does it allow our team to provide better care with a better behaved patient, Yoshi's owners will be able to get more enjoyment out of their little gentleman. Congrats on putting in the effort and getting such great results! - article by Yoshi's Vet



To share your story about you & your four legged family, send an email with subject line “Spotlight” with photos you’d like included to: rpdtc.pawprints@gmail.com to be featured in a future issue of pawprints.

SPECIAL GUEST

*The BOD had a special guest in May!
Baby Charlotte!*



NEW MEMBER ALERT!

Welcome Our Newest Members of Rand Park DTC

Kim Markwell with “Skye”, Laura Inns with “Sarge”,
as well as returning member Lawrence Scordino with
“Poppy” & Heather Santella with “Ollie”



Kim & Skye



Lawrence & Poppy



Heather & Ollie



Laura, Bailey & Sarge



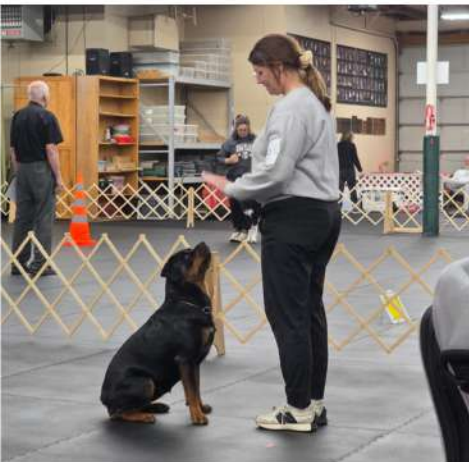
BRAGS GALLERY

RPDTC TRIAL / NOVICE



Congratulations to Audrey & Mochi for earning their 3rd novice Q with a 2nd place. Mochi CD!!

RPDTC TRIAL / VARIOUS CLASS



The Rotties did a phenomenal job representing their breed at our trial. Sue Bowman & her team of Wren, Byng & Vega earned many placements in rally with 1st, 2nd & 3rd's. Wren also earned 2 Q's in Novice placing 2nd in both trials. Byng was in Open A and gave it a good try in both trials. She decided going around the jump was the easier path. Sue did a fix n go and used the opportunity to have Byng do the exercise correctly. Well done!

RPDTC TRIAL / BEGINNER NOVICE



Congratulations to Danielle & Brandon. Team Jaxon earned his 2nd & 3rd Q with a 1st & 2nd place, earning his Beginner Novice title.
Jaxon BN

RPDTC TRIAL / BEGINNER NOVICE



Congratulations to Team Desi! Desi & Gail earned 2 Q's with a 1st & 3rd place for their Beginner Novice title. One more Q to go.

RPDTC TRIAL / NON-RPDTC STUDENTS



Liz Drexler & Presley
High in Trial & High combined



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPATING NON-RPDTC
HANDLERS & THEIR DOGS ON A SUCCESSFUL TRIAL EVENT!

MILA

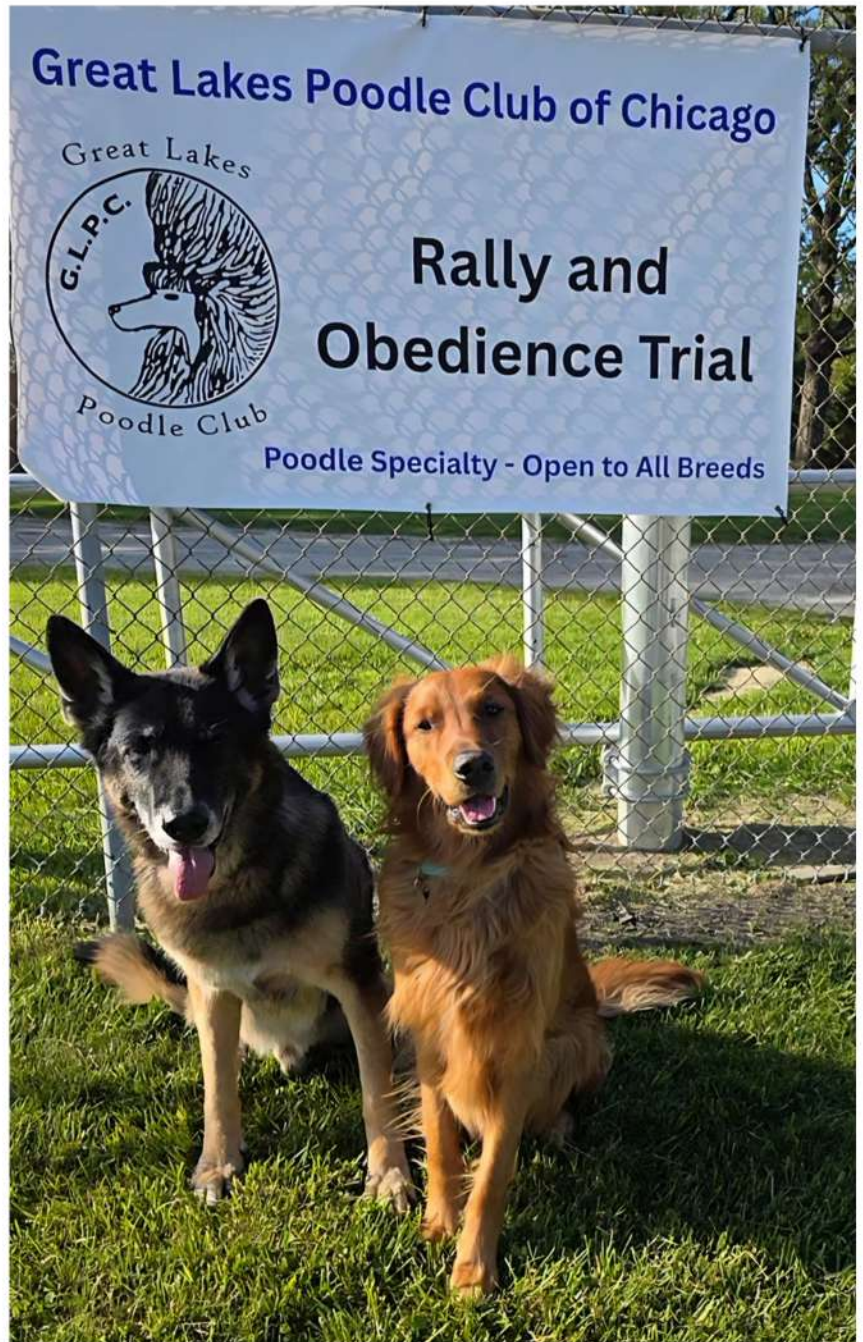
Congratulations to Mila & Kathy. Mila earned her NACSW Elite Champion title. She earned it with a 1st place overall and 2- 1st places in the element searches and a 2nd place in the other element search.



KOBI

Kobi and Kathy earned their NACSW NW Elite title with a 1st place overall and a 2nd place in vehicles.

TEAM MANTILLA! NOAH & BUZZ

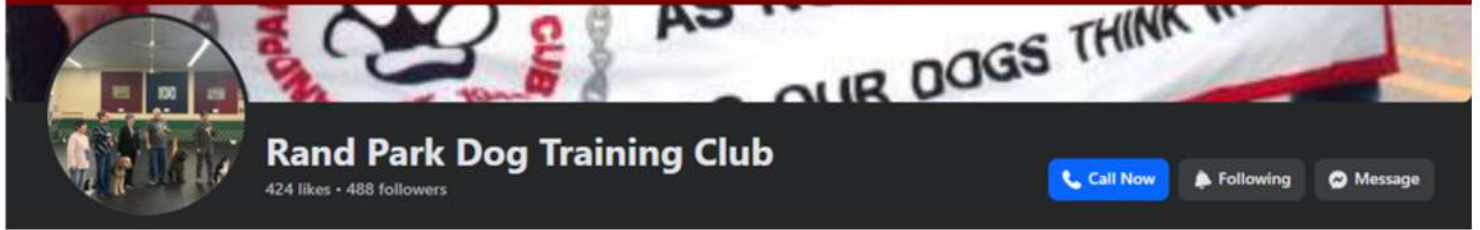


Congratulations to the Mantilla boys! Noah and Buzz earned their rally titles this past weekend at the Great Lakes Poodle Specialty. Noah earned his Rally Excellent title all with placements at 11 years young. Buzz earned his Rally Novice title with all blue ribbons. Good job boys!

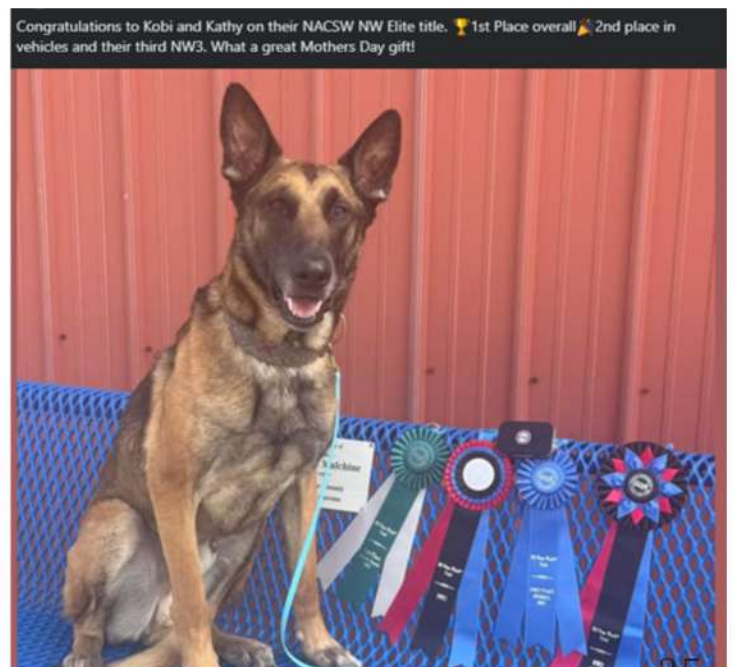
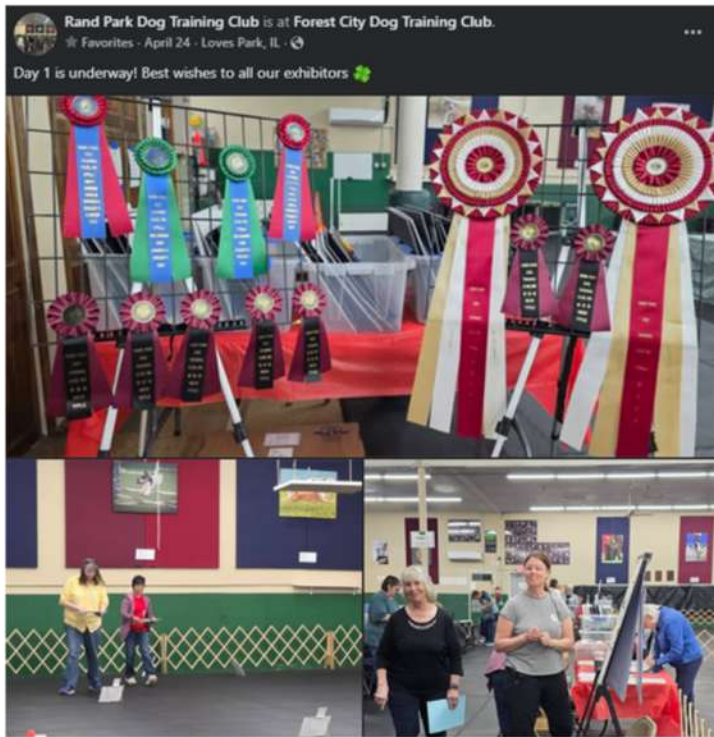


Congratulations Team Buzz! Buzz earned his NACSW NW 2 with a 3rd place overall out of a group of 42 dogs & 2 pronounced!! Way to go!

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Be sure you're following along the club's [Facebook page](#) for more updates! Check out some of our more recent posts!





NO BAKE PEANUT BUTTER BITES

Need a treat in a hurry? These no-bake bites take only minutes to mix up and are an excellent source of protein and fiber.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup natural, dog-friendly peanut butter (NO xylitol)
- 1/4 cup plain, unsweetened yogurt
- 1 medium mashed banana
- 3 cups rolled oats (or oat flour)

DIRECTIONS:

- Thoroughly mix the peanut butter, yogurt, and mashed banana in a large bowl.
- Slowly fold in the rolled oats until you get a thick, dough-like consistency that you can roll into balls.
- Scoop out small balls (sized appropriately for your dog) and place them on a baking sheet.
- Chill in the freezer for 30 minutes to harden, then store the leftovers in the fridge.

<https://www.drharveys.com/blogs/blog/spring-delights-wholesome-no-bake-dog-treat>

OFF-LEASH HUMOR



THANK YOU TO OUR PAWPRINTS CONTRIBUTORS

PAWSOME PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT - Birgit Mantilla
SPECIAL GUEST HIGHLIGHT - Birgit Mantilla
K9 KITCHEN & HUMOR - Danielle Sofia
FROM THE PRESIDENT - Birgit Mantilla (President)
FROM THE SECRETARY - Martha Nelson (Secretary)

**NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
IS JULY 5TH FOR THE JULY 15TH ISSUE.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Birgit Mantilla rpdtc.president@gmail.com
 - Vice President - Kathy Baureis rpdtc.VP@gmail.com
 - Secretary - Martha Nelson rpdtc.Secretary@gmail.com
 - Treasurer - Todd Doerpinghaus rpdtc.Treasurer@gmail.com
 - Asst. Treasurer - Paul Straka rpdtc.Asst.Treasurer@gmail.com
-
- Dir. of Training - Sue Bowman suembowman@gmail.com
 - Director - Jill Spooner jaspoon@att.net
 - Director - Lois Mayer-Yep lpmayer@juno.com
 - Director - Lisa Merlin lmmsail64@gmail.com
-
- PawPrints - Danielle Sofia rpdtc.Pawprints@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Notice of training cancellation will also be posted on:

The club's website www.randparkdtc.org

our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/RandParkDTC