



# The Canine Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of the Orange Dog Park Association  
PO Box 5967, Orange, CA 92863  
[www.orangedogpark.com](http://www.orangedogpark.com)



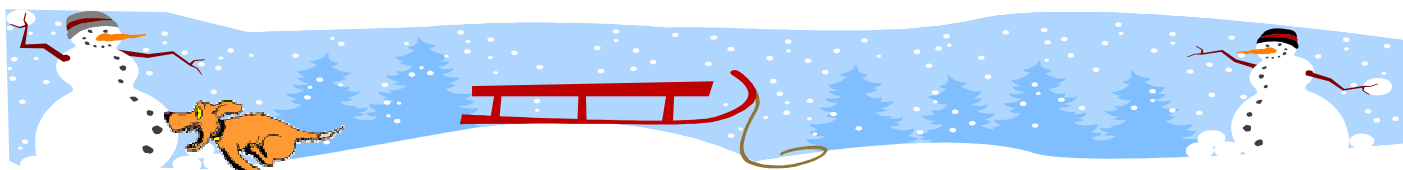
Volume 18

January

February

March

Winter 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In order to receive feedback and knowledge of how we might plan for future goals, a brief survey was sent along with the 2009-2010 renewal applications. 149 membership applications were received and 84 surveys (56%). Not every question was answered within each survey so the number of responses for each question is listed. Here are the results:

1. Know the Dog Park is not in the city's budget? 81 responses, **85% Yes**, 15% No
2. Know about periodic General Meetings? 83 responses, **84% Yes**, 16% No
  - a. Ever attended a General Meeting? 83 responses, 36% Yes, **64% No**
  - b. If yes, was it informative? 24 responses **92% Yes**, 8% No
  - c. Like to see informational speakers? 34 responses, **85% Yes**, 15% No
  - d. Topics of interest? Health, Dealing with aggressive dogs, Training, Behavior
3. Read the quarterly newsletter? 78 responses, **79% Yes**, 21% No
  - a. Read the Kiosk? 57 responses, **77% Yes**, 23% replied No
4. Visit the association's website? 79 responses, 42% Yes, **58% No**
5. Ever visited the Information Table? 81 responses, **74% Yes**, 26% No
  - a. Like to see the Information Table more often? 30 responses, 47% Yes, **53% No**
6. Interested in becoming a volunteer or board member? 68 responses, 13% Yes, **87% No**



Thank you to those that renewed their membership and to those that completed the survey. So, what can we glean from these results? Well, it appears we do get information out. The majority of members know the association funds the ongoing maintenance of the park. They know we have General Meetings, yet attendance to meetings is low. However, members would like to get information on dog-related issues through informational speakers. Now this has been a bit of a puzzle for the board...in the past, speakers were brought in, usually on a volunteer basis, yet the attendance was so low, it became difficult to secure more speakers. Further, the time and effort to enlist speakers then have such a low turn-out was quite deflating. However, members do read the newsletter. Perhaps we can include informational articles in the newsletter. A note about the distribution of the newsletter...it is NOT mailed. To conserve funds, we don't mail the newsletter, it is placed in the white mailboxes in the parks within the first week of the distribution month (Jan., April, July, Oct.). It is also posted in the kiosk and on the website. The kiosk, another method of transmitting information, is read by members. On the other hand, the website is only used by 42% of the members. It seems the Information Table is well liked by members yet not enough to increase the frequency. Quite honestly, I'm pleased to hear this, as with our small board and volunteer pool, we're barely able to complete the one weekend a month. And finally, not too many members were keen on becoming a volunteer or board member. BUMMER...we could really use some more help. We know MANY more folks visit the park than the current 149 ODP members, yet it's the voice of our members in this survey. I hope you found the survey results interesting.

Now, please enjoy the article on the reverse side as it addresses one of the "topics of interest" requests.

Margaret



# How To Break Up A Dog Fight

**Even the best-tempered dogs can get embroiled in a fight. So what should you do if it happens to your pet?** If your dog gets involved in a scrap it can be frightening as well as distressing for both of you. Dogs can fight for different reasons as well as at different intensities but you should always be very careful when trying to separate them. Aggression may be directed towards anyone trying to intervene, or the level of hostility even increased if your dog feels he is fighting to protect you as well as his adversary.

If it happens...

- DO try to stay as calm as you possibly can
- DON'T scream, this is likely to make things worse
- Some fights sound worse than they really are. If it's a minor altercation that doesn't look too serious, call your dog and walk briskly away from him - he'll probably be keeping one eye on you and is more likely to follow rather than continue the argument and risk getting left behind on his own
- If things look more serious, your dog may be oblivious to anything but his rival and although a verbal command may be effective in pre-empting any hostility, it's unlikely to work once a fight has started in earnest
- DON'T attempt to grab the dogs' heads, shoulders or collars, or try to place yourself between them as you are likely to get injured. Even your own dog may not recognize you instantly and may turn and bite you
- Surprise is usually the safest, as well as, the best tactic to try. Throwing a blanket or jacket over the dogs may momentarily confuse or stop them, giving you the opportunity to separate them. Alternatively, if you have a personal alarm, lock it on and throw it into the fight; blow a whistle; or if water is available pour it over, or squirt it into the dogs faces. If you are indoors, you could also try ringing the doorbell – use whatever tools you have on hand to distract the dogs' attention from each other
- Once they break apart you need to act quickly to get the dogs under control and out of range of each other, to prevent them from resuming the fight. Coordinate your actions with the other owner – simply pulling one dog out of the fray and restraining him will make him a sitting target for the other, which may continue to go after him
- Once your dog is safely away from the other one, reassure him and check for damage. Injuries are not always immediately obvious, especially internal ones, so it's always advisable to take him to the vet for a check-up afterwards

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## REGISTER YOUR CLUB CARDS



The Orange Dog Park Association is proud to announce we are participating in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program and the Food 4 Less Community Rewards Program. Simply register your Ralphs or Food 4 Less Club Card online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) or [www.food4less.com](http://www.food4less.com), ODP A # **82862**, swipe it at the register and up to 4% of your purchases will be applied to the ODP A account. It's that simple!

### ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

Contact: [vice-president@orangedogpark.com](mailto:vice-president@orangedogpark.com)

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**Printing of this newsletter was donated by an Orange Dog Park patron. Thank you so much!**

*The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.*