

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the blame, LCAS has teamed up with the Eugene Spay/Neuter Clinic and Greenhill Humane Society to curb unwanted litters of bully breeds. A small unexpected windfall of cash has been dedicated to offering vouchers for the altering of pit bull-type dogs. We are focusing on low-income folks who cannot otherwise afford the surgery, and we are targeting female dogs that are likely to reproduce. Bully litters usually are 10+ puppies, so every spay is a huge victory. I gladly hand out vouchers for in-heat and pregnant dogs, knowing their accidental litters face a scary, uncertain future.

We make it easy to obtain a voucher — just call me and explain your situation! We are here to help. And help is exactly what they need. Folks will call up, with unsure voices. "I saw this ad? About pit bulls? Ummm ... do you think you can help me?" The relief and joy in the voices of these bully caretakers is palpable. Many of them wanted to do the right thing, but their kid got sick. The boyfriend went to jail. They were laid off, recently disabled.

Please, if you are able to donate just \$40 to our voucher program (www.co.lane.or.us/animals), that is another female spayed — another 10 puppies that don't have to roll the dice in an animal shelter; another shelter kennel empty instead of housing a lost, abandoned, homeless pit bull. And frankly, another litter of pit bulls that are not running loose and causing the kind of havoc that gives the bullies a bad name.

*Kylie Belachaikovsky
Lane County Animal Services
Volunteer and Community Outreach
Coordinator*

FUN FAIRNESS

In response to Eve Cienfuegos' (7/16) letter about the Oregon Country Fair, I must say that in 18 years of attending the Fair — my entire life — I have had a vastly different experience than the one she describes. The Fair isn't a camping trip. It is a community of volunteers who work hard to create a place where people can express their creativity with freedom while having fun. It is also one of the cleanest and safest public events I have ever attended.

While there are drugs and sex at OCF, that is not the greatest attraction. I myself have never once done any sort of illegal drug or even smoked or drunk. The Fair is an exciting place with interesting people, good food, great art and fantastic music, but I guess you only see what you look for.

*Stewart Boyatt
Eugene*

LOUDER NOT BETTER

I was so excited about the Riverbank Path Promenade July 19! The poster invited everyone, especially neighbors, to "participate, share your talents, share your thoughts" and to "stroll, play music, show your artwork." As a musician and recording artist, I went to the Promenade with my guitar and my original songs (including one called "Whiteaker Girl"). I was so disappointed when I got there and found canned music blaring from huge speakers. Yes, there was a band, but they were on break, and they were using their break to sell their new CD. I thought that surely they would agree to turn it down at some point during the day so I could play a couple of songs acoustically and share with my neighborhood. The band, ironically called Common Ground, refused. I wonder how many other musicians did not get to share, as invited.

To the Whitaker Neighborhood Association, who would not step in, and to the band Common Ground: shame! The neighborhood missed something special and ended up with a loud band that was there because of ego and money. Louder is not better for this kind of event: Volume ruins the intimacy because people have to sit farther away or it is too loud. I still love my neighborhood. I don't believe the true spirit of the Promenade was reached, though, and I hope the volume level is considered next year, so everyone can really share.

*Corona Hats
Eugene*

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. E-mail to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

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