



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Tail-wagging news!

“Woof-Thank-Woof-You!” bark all the Cottage Grove dogs, as they give the new off-leash bark park four paws up and a tail wag! The park is a gift to the community, courtesy of the Nisewander family.

The soon to be pup-ular location is the grass field owned by the Nisewanders, which is behind their Lu Lu's Car Wash at 1104 E. Main Street.

“I kept reading in the Cottage Grove Sentinel editorials,” said Steve, “about residents wanting a dog park. I thought, ‘Hey, I mow the big field behind the car wash and it might be a solution for the residents, their dogs and mine!’”

I was surprised how fast things moved. I contacted City Hall about my idea and they ‘caught the ball’. Even though the park is privately owned, the city offered to carry the insurance and put up signs to create a public dog park.

Every day that I am working on the park I see dozens of dogs strolling by with their owners. They approach me and make ‘no bones’ about how excited they are to see the park coming together. We are hoping to have it up and running with its proper entrance/exit safety gates by June and the police will monitor the park on their patrols.

Creating the park is a community effort. I had the land, Michael Praegitzer from National Construction (also another animal lover) drilled the first 36 holes for the fencing at the north and south ends of the park with gates. Evan Follett, one of our son's high school friends, helped me set the

posts.”

The car wash is open 24 hours a day, but the dog park will be open from dawn to dusk. There will be 25,300 square feet of open space for your dog to socialize and two entrances into the park — One at the car wash and the other next to the Row River Trailhead, at the public parking lot on N. 12th Street, behind the Post Office. The city is supplying street signage to direct traffic to the parking lot and park's rules within the park.

Currently, it is a dog park for all sizes, but Steve is considering designating a few hours a day for small dogs only.

It is important for humans to “go” before you come, since the only available toilets are at Coiner and Bohemia Parks.

Steve and Mary have another reason to be excited about their park. Their 100-pound, five-year-old rescued Malamute, Thor, could use some friends.

“We changed his name to Thor,” said Mary, “when we adopted him, because we wanted him to leave his old life behind and have a new self-image in his new life.”

Thor must be as excited about the park as his humans!

“Thor is a big dog,” said Steve, “and a breed that is used to running in packs and socializing. Imagine his joy at having a new pack to play and romp with every day when he comes to ‘help’ me maintain the car wash! It is healthy for dogs' spirits and physical health to exercise, so we feel he and all his new friends and he will be very happy.”

The parks are friendly and a paws-itive asset to the community. As a non-dog owner, I stop by and visit them to meet interesting people and for the fun! They are a place to meet new friends, our neighbors and discuss the wonders and craziness of dog ownership.

Come to Lu Lu's Dog Park and enjoy others smiling and laughing, as canines happily greet each other, play, sniff and run with joyful abandon. Thank you to Steve and Mary for creating this wonderful gift to our community.

“We hope the community and their dogs love the dog park,” adds Steve.



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Steve and Mary Nisewander and their dog Thor, have a gift of happiness for Cottage Grove's community, tourists and their dogs!

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TIPS

Dog parks cost money. The fencing is \$4,000, then there is mowing, garbage pick-up and doggy waste bags. Those interested can help by donating to Cascade Lumber, (ask to deposit into the Dog Park account for the fence) or donating on the Cottage Grove Dog Park's GoFundMe's account (<https://www.gofundme.com/y7gke65w/donate>).

Steve would like to include a big bin of dog balls, chew ropes and frisbees. The park could also use picnic tables and or metal benches so pet parents can rest while their dogs play. Those with extras of either to donate or want to offer paws-itive suggestions on making this the park of their dog's dreams can email Steve at nisewander53@gmail.com

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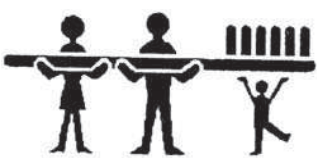
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