



# The Gilmer Gazette



## EAGLE CREEK BARK PARK NEWSLETTER

### Don't Stand There Scratching at the Door—Come On In!

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This is the inaugural edition of the newsletter for the Eagle Creek Bark Park. The newsletter is a place for the members of the park to learn about the goings on with the dog park volunteer group, special events in the park and elsewhere, and other fun, helpful information. Like the park itself, the newsletter is named for Gordon Gilmer.

#### What is the dog park volunteer group?

The dog park volunteer group is made up of members who are dedicating some of their time and energy to make the dog park a more enjoyable place for everyone. The volunteer group's concerns include the safety, beauty, and cleanliness of the park, communication of issues to other park members, fundraising, and involvement of members in park activities.

Some of the issues that are currently on the volunteer group's agenda include the following:

- Maintaining open communication with Eagle Creek Park management
- Keeping gravel around the gates and agility equipment
- Filling holes dug by our dogs
- Ensuring that the gate is in working order
- Adding more benches inside and outside of the fence
- Obtaining additional doggie clean-up stations
- Prominently posting the rules
- Highlighting particular dangers (e.g., children in the park) with additional signage
- Protecting the carving of Gordon Gilmer's dog
- Utilizing the kiosk for posting information
- Leveling the parking lot
- Creating a process for handling dog bites
- Establishing a website

If you'd like to join the volunteer group, contact Amy Bartlett (Clara's human) at [peevishamy@netzero.net](mailto:peevishamy@netzero.net) for more information.

#### Who was Gordon Gilmer?

Gordon Gilmer was an Indianapolis City Council member from District 1. Elected for the first time in 1971 and re-elected for six additional terms, he helped Pike Township (and Indianapolis) grow and improve. He was chairman of the City County Council Parks Committee for many years and realized how parks impact the quality of life in urban and suburban areas. Gilmer understood how a dog could bring fulfillment to a person and always had one in his life. He felt that dogs could fully enjoy life when allowed to run free. When a bark park was proposed in District 1, the Parks Department named it after Gilmer because so many constituents wanted to honor him. According to his daughter Angela, this honor is truly a combination of the things he loved: "good city parks and wonderful canine companions!"



### Park Bark: Frequently Asked Questions

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From [www.indybarkpark.org](http://www.indybarkpark.org)

#### My kids love dogs—why can't children under 12 visit the park?

We'd love to be able to safely let children visit the park, but unfortunately small children are at greater risk of being injured at a dog park than are older children and adults. A small child is more likely to be at a dog's face level, and more likely to be bitten in the face if a bite occurs. Young children often run instead of walk, and

scream instead of talk--these actions can cause some dogs to get overly excited. Young children sometimes have not learned that not all dogs like to be petted. Groups of large fast-running dogs can easily knock a small child down. While we firmly believe that kids need to learn proper behavior with dogs, doing so in an area with so many large dogs is not in the child's best interest.

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### Point Your Bow-Wowser To...

- [www.funstufffordogs.com](http://www.funstufffordogs.com)  
The coolest dog stuff on the planet!
- [www.thepetprofessor.com](http://www.thepetprofessor.com)  
Almost any kind of pet information you can imagine—dogs and more.
- [www.pamperedpuppy.com](http://www.pamperedpuppy.com)  
The ultimate resource for your pampered pooch.
- [www.askdoglady.com](http://www.askdoglady.com)  
Lighthearted advice and wisdom on dogs, life, and love.

*Park Bark: FAQ  
Continued from previous page*

#### What's the best way to break up a dog fight should one occur?

There is no absolutely safe way to break up a dog fight, but one of the methods recommended by the experts is for each owner to grab his/her dog by the tail or hindquarters and pull the dog away from the other dog, hold on to your dog's hindquarters until he has calmed down, and then leash your dog and take him home. Under no circumstances should you ever break up a dog fight by grabbing a dog's collar or anything near the biting end of the dog!

#### I will be gone for a few days and my friend will be taking care of my dog. Can my friend bring my dog to the park?

Yes, you can do this, but please make sure that your friend understands that the only dog she can bring to the park is your member dog (she can't bring her non-member dog). Make sure that she knows all park rules and agrees to follow them. Make sure that she understands and agrees with the liability waiver. Even though you will not be there with your friend, she will be considered your guest and you will be responsible for her behavior while in the park.



#### Yesterday a new dog came to the park and was very aggressive toward all the other dogs and the owner didn't remove the dog from the area as the rule require. What should I do if this happens again?

More than likely you have been bringing your dog to the bark park for quite awhile as have most of the park users. Your dog is by now very comfortable with this environment. Although we discourage aggressive dogs from using the dog park, it is important to keep in mind that this is a very intimidating place for a dog that has never been exposed to such areas. Especially when the new dog is greeted at the gate by 5-6 dogs all at once. No doubt, if you walked through a park and were suddenly approached by 5 people you didn't know you would feel threatened. We want every one to have a good experience at the dog park. It may take a couple times for a new dog to adapt and relax. Unless the other dogs appear to be at risk of injury, just be tolerant. If this behavior persists contact the park office. Generally, the individuals whose dogs don't adapt don't continue to use the park. It isn't any fun for them or their dogs.

#### Dog Bites

##### Canine Carrot Cookies

- 2 c. carrots, boiled and pureed
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 2 c. all-purpose, rice, or rye flour
- 1 c. rolled oats
- ¼ c. wheat germ

Combine carrots, eggs and garlic. Mix until smooth. Add dry ingredients. Roll out on heavily floured surface and cut into bars or desired shapes. Bake at 300°F for 45 minutes or to desired crunchiness. The centers will continue to harden as they cool. Brush with egg white before baking for a glossy finish.

*From People Food for Dogs by Katie Merwick*

## Vet on It: Mounting Behavior, Healthy Ears, & Reducing Allergic Symptoms

From [www.PetEducation.com](http://www.PetEducation.com)

### When a dog mounts another, is it play or a sign of dominance?

Mounting (when one dog places his paws and chest on the hindquarters of another dog) is a normal and very common canine behavior. In most cases, it is not a sexual behavior. In young puppies, it is a play behavior. In older dogs, it is a method of communication, and the dog who is mounting the other dog is generally displaying dominance.

### What is the best way to prevent ear disease?

The key to healthy ears is to keep them clean. Check your dog's ears weekly. A slight amount of waxy buildup may be present in normal ears. If your dog swims a lot, has pendulous ears, or a history of ear disease, routine cleaning (often once to three times per week) is recommended. Excess hair around the ear can be clipped to allow more air flow. Treat any underlying condition that predisposes your dog to ear problems.

Remember, if your dog is showing severe discomfort, the ears have a bad smell, or the ear canals look very abnormal, do not delay in contacting your veterinarian. If your dog has a ruptured or weakened eardrum, some ear cleansers and medications could do more harm than good.

### How can a person reduce allergic symptoms to a pet?

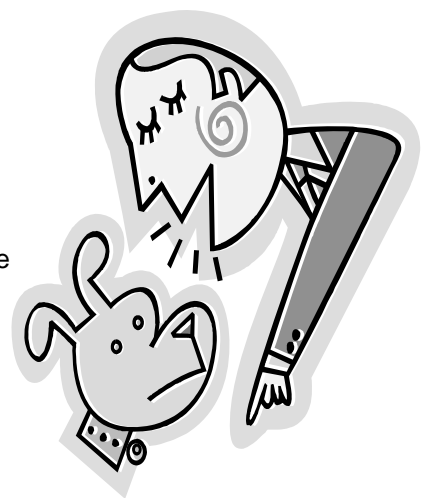
If you or a member of your family is part of the 15% of our population allergic to pets, there are things you can do to help keep allergic reactions under control and make your home a much more comfortable place to live. Even if you do not have allergies, these tips are helpful if you have guests in your home that are allergic to animals.

- We spend from one third to one half of our time in our bedrooms. By keeping the animals out of the bedrooms at all times, we can greatly reduce the symptoms of pet allergies.
- Install a good HEPA air cleaner.
- Close the ducts to the bedrooms and use electric heaters.
- Clean and vacuum regularly.
- Bathe your pet weekly.
- Do not allow your pet on the furniture.
- Do not allow your pet in your car or use car seat covers when your pet is in the car.
- Brush your pet daily and use an allergy-reducing spray such as Allerpet®.
- Keep your pet's skin healthy by feeding a good multivitamin and a fatty acid supplement.
- Encourage the pet to spend more time outdoors.
- Wash your hands after handling the pet, his toys, bed, etc.
- See your physician and discuss possible immunotherapy or medications.

## Laugh Like a Hyena: House Rules

From the Internet

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.



## Howl of Fame: MacKenzie King

*Gordon Gilmer's dog*

MacKenzie King was born in Nappanee, Ontario, Canada on June 22, 1994. He spent his first months in the United States with a family of Canadians on the north side of Indianapolis. In 1995 he was adopted by the Gilmers and has been a treasured member of the family ever since!

MacKenzie always has a smile on his face and is eager to greet friends (be they two- or four-legged). His sweet nature and loving gentleness grace all who encounter him. He is believed to be the favorite of all the dogs that Gordon Gilmer shared his life with. It is his likeness that is carved in the statue at the entrance to the dog park.

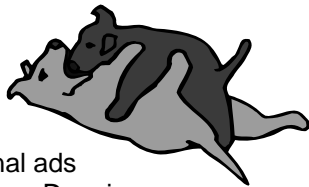
## It's a Dog Meet Dog World

*Uniting Dogs of All Breeds*

Would you like to start filling your dog's (and your own) social calendar with items other than "go to park" and "go for walk"? Does your dog need a regular playmate? Is there someone (or somedog) that you used to see all the time at the park and now you are wondering where he/she has gone? This is the space to work it out!

### It's a Dog Meet Dog World

is meant to facilitate socialization—mostly for dogs but we humans benefit, too. Send your doggie personal ads to [GilmerGazette@hotmail.com](mailto:GilmerGazette@hotmail.com). Doggie personals are printed at the discretion of the dog park volunteer group.



## Arf-nouncements

*Pooch News*

Is there something worth mentioning to the other members? Maybe you're planning a birthday celebration or memorial service for your dog at the park? Maybe there's a local dog-related or dog-friendly event? This is the space to share it!

**Arf-nouncements** is meant for sharing information. Send your newsworthy items to [GilmerGazette@hotmail.com](mailto:GilmerGazette@hotmail.com). Announcements are printed at the discretion of the dog park volunteer group.

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Thinking about  
**ADVERTISING?**  
 If you'd like to get the word out about your business, why not do it in  
**The Gilmer Gazette?**  
 If interested, contact  
[GilmerGazette@hotmail.com](mailto:GilmerGazette@hotmail.com).

## Things that Make You Say Woof—Coming Soon!

# PET SUPPLIES "PLUS"

7190 Rockville Road, Indianapolis, (317) 241-1400

Each newsletter will feature a product available at the Pet Supplies "Plus" on Rockville Road. Stop by the store for all of your pet supply needs—not just dog stuff!—or visit them online at [www.petsuppliesplus.com](http://www.petsuppliesplus.com).

