

NEW

LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST p.14

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dog

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MAKE A LEASH FOR YOUR PUPPY

p.26

AMERICA'S **TOP 40 BEST DOG PARKS**

p.38

Hit the road!
ADVICE FOR TRAVELING WITH YOUR DOG

p.32

YOUR GUIDE TO **CARDIAC CARE**

p.28

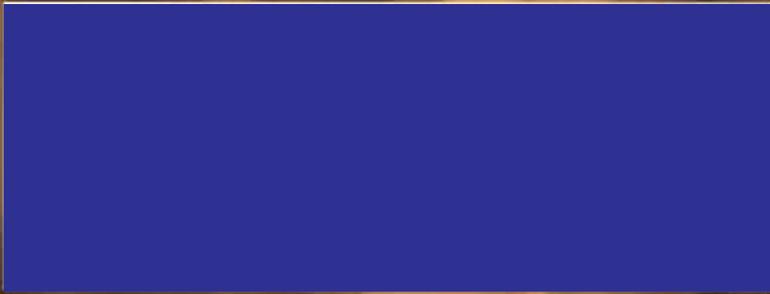


DOG BREEDER'S DIRECTORY page 80

PLUS CANINE SHOWCASE

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER
AQUATIC ATHLETE

+ ENTLEBUCHER & AMERICAN BULLDOG



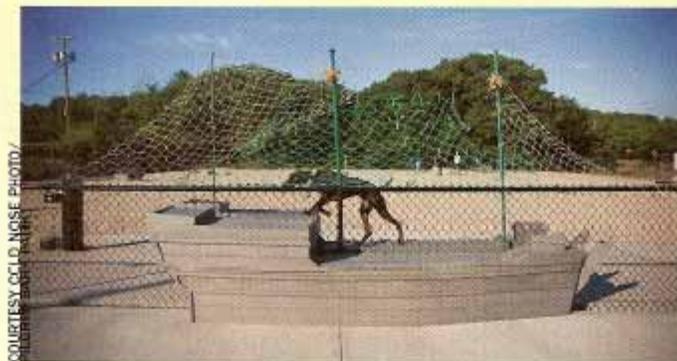
2 Pilgrim Bark Park

Provincetown, Mass.

www.provincetowndogpark.org

Highlights: Whimsical benches, including one that looks like a miniature version of the Mayflower; memorial park; sponsored *War Dogs of the Pacific* movie at a film festival.

Their secret: Dream big. For dog parks like Pilgrim that receive no government dollars, fundraising is a big deal. Last year, Pilgrim took a chance and invited comedienne Lily Tomlin — a frequent visitor to the area — to perform pro bono at a fundraiser. She accepted, and the event, dubbed “The D Word,” drew almost 1,000 people — and raised critical funds for new shade structures at the park.



COURTESY OCLO NOISE PHOTO

to throw a party; its Pictures with the Easter Bunny event draws big crowds. But the dog park also feels a duty to educate — not just entertain — visitors. Workshops like Meet the Vet and CPR for Dogs prove dog parks can be important avenues for public education.

4 Cosmo Dog Park

Gilbert, Ariz.

www.gilbertaz.gov/parks/cosmo

Highlights: Lake with dock for jumping; agility equipment; covered picnic areas.

Their secret: Move beyond chain link and boring concrete. Park planners decorated Cosmo Dog Park with dog lovers in mind: Pawprint designs appear everywhere — on the sidewalks and light posts — and there’s even a pawprint “bridge” that spans the lake. A striking brick memorial walkway, with some 1,400 inscribed bricks, allows residents to pay tribute to gone-but-not-forgotten pets.



COURTESY SCOTT MATTINGLY

3 Kenton Paw Park

Covington, Ky.

www.kentonpawpark.com

Highlights: Regular pool parties; agility equipment; Kenton Paw Park calendar and T-shirts.

Their secret: Harness the dog park’s power to educate. Sure, Kenton Paw Park knows how



COURTESY MARK BENNETT, COSMO DOG PARK



COURTESY JOHN LEHTI, PUPTOWN DOG PARK

5 Puptown Dog Park

Chicago

www.puptown.org

Highlights: Halloween costume contest; regular canine health seminars; quarterly meet-and-greets.

Their secret: Size doesn’t matter. Nestled in big-city Chicago, Puptown doesn’t occupy a Texas-sized space. But what the park lacks in land they make up for in big-time community spirit, from a rollicking Howl-o-ween celebration and costume contest to frequent meet-and-greets, canine health seminars, and park cleanup days.

6 W.O.O.F. P.A.C. Park

Santa Maria, Calif.

www.woofpac.org

Highlights: Coin-operated dog wash; boot scrapers; Woofstock festival with dog barking contest — for people!

Their secret: Remember humans, too. W.O.O.F. P.A.C. (Winners of Off-Leash Freedom Pooch Action Committee) pays attention to

both dog and human comfort: Strategically placed boot scrapers await muddy visitors, baskets corral items such as keys and dog leashes, and there’s even a coin-operated dog wash.



COURTESY WENDI RISER, HERMON DOG PARK

7 Hermon Dog Park

Los Angeles

www.hermondogpark.com

Highlights: Monthly Yappy Hour with vet-care specialist; dog adoption drives; Halloween party features a Peanut Butter Lick-Off contest.

Their secret: Embrace social networking. Hermon Dog Park understands that dog parks are important not just to dogs, but also to people. Popular park events include monthly Yappy Hour parties, and the park’s Santa Paws Squad appearance in a local Christmas parade draws fans. But the park is also great at organizing dog lovers online via a regularly updated website and Facebook page.

8 Prairie Pastures Dog Park

Clinton, Iowa

www.soaringeagle.20m.com



COURTESY ANITA SWEABINGER



Highlights: Play equipment includes pools in summer; annual ice cream social; Easter biscuit hunt.

Their secret: Reuse, recycle, repurpose. Prairie Pastures sits on the site of a former zoo, which has been reborn as a doggie wonderland: A former monkey cage lives on as Splashy Waters, an area for wading pools in warmer months, and a former petting-zoo barn serves as a covered venue for educational and other events.

9 Wantage Dog Park

Wantage, N.J.

www.wantedogpark.com

Highlights: Spring Lab Fest event; special no-freeze doggie water fountain; agility equipment.

Their secret: Practice tried-and-true fundraising. Wantage Dog Park — New Jersey's largest — doesn't receive any government money and raises funds the old-fashioned way, via a yearly giant garage sale and three low-tech but effective

donation boxes. Since opening three years ago, the dog park has raised over \$100,000.

10 Bow Wow Beach Dog Park

Stow, Ohio

www.stow.oh.us

Highlights: Lake; beach; Bow Wow Beach Birthday Bash.

Their secret: Make it fun, and they will come. Bow Wow Beach attracts people and dogs from far and wide to its sandy dog beach and 3-acre spring-fed lake. Other popular draws include the annual Bow Wow Beach Birthday Bash, while park fans consider Bow Wow Beach T-shirts a fun and fashionable must-have.



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THE REST OF THE BEST



11. Alum Creek Dog Park
Lewis Center, Ohio
www.alumcreekdogpark.com

12. Millbrook Dog Park
Raleigh, N.C.
www.millbrook-dog-park.com

13. Oklahoma City Paw Park
Oklahoma City
www.pawok.com

14. Fort Woof Dog Park
Fort Worth, Texas
www.fortwoof.com

15. Paw Park of Historic Sanford
Sanford, Fla.
www.pawparksanford.org

16. Brookdale Dog Park
Bloomfield and Montclair, N.J.
www.brookdaledogpark.org

17. Friends Forever Dog Park
Freeport, Ill.
www.petfinder.com/~IL124/dogpark/index.html

18. Freedom Bark Park
Lowell, Ind.
www.freedombarkpark.org

19. Hondo Dog Park
Hillsboro, Ore.
www.hillsborodogs.com

**20. Canine Meadows
Off-Leash Dog Area at
John Rudy County Park**
York, Pa.
www.yorkcountyparks.org/park/pages/caninemeadows.htm

**21. Tompkins Square Park
Dog Run**
New York, N.Y.
www.firstrunfriends.org

**22. Congressman Bill Archer
Bark Park**
Houston
www.houstondogpark.org

23. Millie Bush Bark Park
Houston
www.houstondogpark.org

24. Biscuit Acres Bark Park
Tulsa, Okla.
www.tulsasouthsiderotary.org

25. Marymoor Park Dog Area
Redmond, Wash.
www.soda.org

26. Akron Dog Park
Akron, Ohio
www.akrondogpark.org

**27. Point Isabel Regional
Shoreline**
Richmond, Calif.
www.pido.org

**28. Howard & Erna Soldan
Dog Park**
Lansing, Mich.
www.lansingdogparks.com

**29. Fort de Soto Park Paw
Playground**
Tierra Verde, Fla.
www.fortdesoto.com/pawplayground.php

**30. Quiet Waters Park Dog Park
and Dog Beach**
Annapolis, Md.
www.friendsofquietwaterspark.org/dog.html

**31. Waggin' Tails Dog Park at
Centennial Park**
North Platte, Neb.
www.ci.north-platte.ne.us

32. Doctors' Dog Park
Apopka, Fla.
www.apopka.net

**33. LaPorte County Small Animal
Shelter Dog Park**
La Porte, Ind.
www.laportecountyparks.org/bark.html

34. Jefferson County Dog Park
Jefferson, Wis.
www.jeffersoncountywi.gov

35. Dog Fancier's Park
Las Vegas
www.accessclarkcounty.com

36. Tails 'N Trails Dog Park
Arlington, Texas
www.arlingtontx.gov/park/tailsandtrails.html

37. Ohlone Dog Park
Berkeley, Calif.
www.ohlone-dog-park.org

38. Derry Dog Park
Derry, N.H.
www.derry.nh.us

39. Spencer Dog Park
Sioux Falls, S.D.
www.siouxfallsparks.org

**40. Pooch Pines at
Okeehoelee Park**
West Palm Beach, Fla.
www.co.palmbeach.fl.us/parks/dogparks/poochpines.de

Maureen Kochan, the former editor of DOG FANCY, is a freelance writer and editor who lives in Southern California. She can be found most weekends at her dogs' favorite dog park, Oceanside Dog Park in Oceanside, Calif.

Want to find a dog park in your area? Visit our dog park locator at DogChannel.com/extras