



A Community Dog Park for Monkton -- Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth issue of our *Monkton Community Dog Park* Newsletter!

You are receiving this newsletter because you have asked to be added to our email list, or have shown interest in receiving news about our progress. To unsubscribe, please write to us at dogpark@monktonvt.com

This is a short issue mainly devoted to announcements. We wish to recognize Mother's Day, and send our best wishes to all the mothers reading this, and especially to all the puppy moms who come to the Dog Park with their "kids".

What's Happening at The Monkton Community Dog Park

Mud Season

Who knew that mud season could last so long, or be so miserable? If you've brought home a dog completely coated in mud, or slipped on the path into the park and decorated your favorite play clothes with our good Vermont clay, you are probably as tired of this season as the rest of us.

Thank you to all our patrons who have cheerfully put up with multiple unexpected closings due to the changing and challenging conditions at the Dog Park. On Friday, Brian Cota of Champlain



Valley Site Work brought us 12 yards of wood chips donated by Teacher's Tree Service (a big thank you to both companies!). Brian also brought landscape cloth, and Cathie Buscaglia, Bob Radler, and Ian Schulze spread the wood chips over the very muddy surface of the entry paddock and entrance gates so we could re-open the dog park for use Friday evening. The work crew also moved one of the benches to the driest area of the park, hoping to encourage the two-legged visitors to hang out there, and use that area to play with their dogs, and take some pressure

off the entry points. Many thankful pups have returned to enjoy their romps in the park thanks to the generosity of our friends and supporters.



ANNOUNCEMENTS!



We are so excited to invite our friends and supporters to the following events:

**MONKTON
COMMUNITY
DOG PARK**

**GRAND
OPENING**

JOIN US AS WE RECOGNIZE OUR
GENEROUS SPONSORS

**SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
11AM - 1PM**

MORSE PARK, POND ROAD IN MONKTON

We're having a party! Come join the fun as we unveil our new signs and thank the incredibly generous sponsors who have made the Monkton Community Dog Park a reality.



Balance Training Demonstration and Workshop

Saturday, June 5, 2021
11 AM - 1 PM

Monkton Community Dog Park
Morse Park, Pond Road in Monkton

Come hear about foundational dog training from an expert! We are welcoming Alec Sparks for a demonstration and discussion of “Balance” dog training. Alec is a native Vermonter who grew up with German Shepherds; at age 13 he got his first Labrador Retriever puppy. That launched him on a life with dogs, and in 1992, in his mid-30’s, he started training dogs professionally. Alec estimates some 700 dogs have received full-board training at his kennel (Snowbound Kennels in Addison) since that time. Most of these dogs spend 3 ½ months boarding with Alec for foundation training, and many return for advanced training as they progress in their careers.

Alec started with training retrievers for field work, then quickly moved on to training pointing breeds. These dogs were always family pets, but were also working dogs used for hunting and competition. Then over a decade ago, pet dog owners discovered Alec’s successes, and introduced him to the wide range of “behavior issues” that challenged him to expand his interests. Always fascinated by all that a dog can do, Alec started working with protection dogs 5 years ago, and is currently training dogs for police canine type work.

Alec and his wife currently own a Labrador Retriever, a German Shepherd, an English Pointer, two Belgian Malinois, and a small mix-breed (two of these dogs are rescues). Alec is a big supporter of rescue operations, and is currently approved as a foster/trainer for several 501(c)3 groups. He donates long-term training for rescue dogs that are struggling with human expectations in the hope of making these dogs more adoptable. He and his wife have adopted, rescued, and re-homed, or donated long-term training, for over 40 dogs.

Alec has waived the fee for his time and work presenting this demonstration, and instead asked that your donations for this event go to a rescue operation that we have chosen with him. 100% of your donation of \$20 (suggested) will help support the work of Long Trail Canine Rescue.

The demonstration will be presented in the Morse Park-Pond Road parking lot. You may bring your dog, but please be prepared to keep the dog in your car during the demonstration, so that we can hear and pay attention to it. Alec suggests that if you do bring your pup, that you have a crate in the car so your dog can stay comfortably kenneled with the windows and doors open for air flow and temperature control during his presentation.



A Reminder:

MONKTON COMMUNITY DOG PARK

WELCOME!

Please read and understand all dog park rules before using the dog park.

- Dogs must be licensed, vaccinated and healthy
- Dogs must be kept in sight and under voice control at all times
- Limit: 2 dogs per adult
- Minimize excessive barking
- Dogs in heat and dogs under the age of 12 weeks are prohibited
- Pick up your dog's waste and dispose of it properly
- Dogs that display aggression toward people/dogs must be removed immediately
- Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult
- Keep your dog from jumping on other dogs or people
- Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by them
- No glass, food, alcohol, or smoking - all other Morse Park rules apply

Hours of Operation: The Park will be open from dawn to dusk.

In an emergency, please call 911.

Questions or concerns?

Contact dogpark@monktonvt.com

The Monkton Dog Park Committee and/or Town of Monkton will not be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog or person in the park. Users of the park do so at their own risk. All dogs and their owners must comply with the Town of Monkton Animal Control Ordinance.



A big welcome ❤️ to our new members of the Monkton Community Dog Park Committee:

Kerrie Garvey

Linda Anderson Krech

Jolene McKay

Lauren Parren (Associate Member)

The Monkton Community Dog Park Committee is transitioning our focus from BUILDING a dog park in Monkton to MAINTAINING our Community Dog Park, and we are welcoming new members to support us as we move forward. If you are interested in joining us, please contact dogpark@monktonvt.com. We look forward to planning fun events and ensuring that the Dog Park continues to be a fun, safe, place for our pups to meet and play.



Fundraising Continues

One of the realities of owning dogs is cleaning up after them, and one of the delights of a dog park is the poop bag dispenser and waste can RIGHT THERE! so the clean-up job is easy and doesn't go home with you. But those bags have to be purchased, and this will be a significant and on-going expense. Come summer, we will all want the beautiful grassy field to stay beautiful and grassy, and this involves mowing and trimming along the fenceline. Again, this is a significant expense. Our goal is to never have to burden the Monkton taxpayer with any costs related to the dog park, so we will continue to look to our supporters for funding for these on-going expenses. Here are some ideas on how to help:

- 🐾 Are you looking for that special gift for a dog-lover in your life? Or are you the dog-lover, and someone is asking you what you would love to receive? How about a donation in your (or your pup's name) to the Dog Park? Skip the in-person shopping, or even the on-line stress, and give the gift of helping the Dog Park.
- 🐾 You can now use Amazon Smile to generate funds for the Dog Park! For any holiday or shopping need, if you use Amazon for your shopping, you can select the "Monkton Community Coffeehouse" as a charitable recipient, and 0.5% of the purchase price (for all qualifying purchases) will be donated directly to our bank account. All you have to do is go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4429225> to start your shopping! It's easy to do, and your purchases will not cost you anything extra.
- 🐾 We are providing an opportunity for dog-lovers to memorialize a beloved pet's life with a small engraved plaque. For \$25, your pet's name and information can be engraved on a dog tag, and your dog can play on in memory at the park.
- 🐾 As public health conditions permit, we hope to continue to offer events at the dog park which will help us raise money through small attendance fees and donations.
- 🐾 We will continue to receive donations at both our PayPal (<http://monktonvt.com/community/monkton-community-dog-park/>) and our GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/monkton-community-dog-park>) links.



We are committed to ensuring that decision-making for the Monkton Community Dog Park is an inclusive and transparent process. Anyone interested in joining the workgroup or sharing ideas is welcome. The next meeting of the Dog Park Committee is Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 pm by Zoom. Please contact us (see below) for meeting login information.

To come to a meeting, join the committee or request additional information contact us at dogpark@monktonvt.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the Dog Park!