



Daily Wag

FETCH! FREE EXERCISE TIME for CANINES and their HUMANS

Fall 2011 Issue 27

Meet FETCH! Mower Man Michael Hauser

The question we're asked most frequently here at FETCH! headquarters is "Who does the fantastic job mowing at Brons and Patmore?" Meet Michael Hauser:

My name is Michael Hauser, and you might know me from seeing me on my riding mower (nicknamed the "Bumblebee" due to its black and yellow color), at Marguerite Brons or Patmore Pit.

I thoroughly enjoy not only riding the mower, but doing something so rewarding for myself and those who come to the parks with their dogs.

I find that mowing not only makes for easier walking, but more importantly I think, is that it makes it easier for people to see where their dog has left something that needs to be picked up. When the grass is long, it makes it harder to see these droppings and easier to step on them.

Also, the dogs seem to attract stickers in their coats. So I feel good about

being able to help out with the mowing, and so many of you are so appreciative of my doing it, thanking me and giving me the thumbs up when I'm there mowing. I've met the nicest folks at the dog parks, it's been a pleasure.

We have two adopted (rescued) dogs; Clara, a 9 year old blind Pug, and Geben (it means "gift" in German), a Standard Poodle who is eight years old and thinks he's two. I started bringing him to Marguerite Brons Park for some exercise and socializing, and thus began my "mowing career" when I noticed the length of the grass/weeds.

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An Important Reminder From Island County Animal Control

Dog owners who are residents and live in unincorporated areas of Island County are required to have their dogs over 4 months of age currently licensed per county code. License Fees are as follows:

-  Annual License Fee: (unaltered) \$25.00.
-  Annual License Fee: (altered - spayed/neutered) \$7.00.
-  Annual Group License Fee: \$100.00.
- Persons 65 years of age and older:**
-  Annual License Fee: (unaltered) \$20.00.
-  Annual License Fee: (altered - spayed/neutered) \$4.00

Licenses may be purchased at the Waif Animal Shelter located off Hwy 20, Coupeville, and at some local veterinarians' offices. For additional license questions please contact Animal Control phone number (360) 679-7398

Thank you for your support by complying with the required Island County dog license and doing your part by being a responsible dog owner.

Whidbey Island Animal Control
Officer C. Barnes

10 tips for traveling with your dog

When you have a dog, there's more to keeping him safe and happy than just opening the car door. Here are 10 tips to make your trip problem-free.

1. **Get to the vet.** Before your trip, take the time to take your dog to the veterinarian. Beyond ensuring your pet's health, and his vaccinations are current, it's the only way to get a health certificate. That certificate, and proof of an updated rabies vaccine, may be necessary if you board your pet at your destination.

Is your dog the nervous type? Your vet may also choose to prescribe a sedative for him.

2. **Tags aren't just for luggage.** Your dog should have a collar with your home address and phone numbers on a tag. To protect him while traveling, tape your local contact information onto the tag before leaving. Many dogs also have a microchip as a form of permanent ID. Carry a photograph of you with your dog, to make it easy for others to recognize and return him if he gets lost and to prove ownership.

3. **Pack and plan for your pet.** Like you, dogs like the comforts of home: bedding, toys, brush, and dishes. Pack treats, a first aid kit, medications, and a copy of medical records. Most importantly, though, bring your dog's own food.

If you're planning on staying at a hotel with your dog, confirm the details of your reservations in advance. Make sure the hotel is truly pet-friendly and know what the services are. You don't want any last-minute surprises - like weight limits or breed restrictions. And of course, don't forget the pooper scooper.

4. **Use some restraint.** Just as humans need seatbelts, animals need some form of safety restraint when in the car.



Carriers should be big enough so the animal can sit and lie down. You can make it more comfortable by lining the bottom with bedding. Secure the carrier to the car; otherwise, it can become a projectile, injuring your pet and the car's other occupants.

A restraining harness can connect a dog to the car seat belt, preventing him from flying forward during sudden braking or impact. The dog can still stand, sit or lie down, but not get loose.

5. **Dogs love trucks, but...** it's estimated that more than 100,000 dogs die from falls from pickup trucks each year. Bumps in the road or quick motions can throw the dog out of the truck bed, causing the dog's injury or death and potentially causing more accidents as other drivers swerve to avoid the dog. Dogs sometimes jump out, because the bed becomes too hot for their paws. If you must put a dog in back of an open truck, get a crate made especially for that purpose and secure it with tie-downs.

6. **Dogs get car sick too.** If this sounds like your dog, give him a light meal a few hours before you leave and feed him minimally during the drive. Offer small amounts of water in the hours before the trip.

7. **No doggy in the window.** Dogs love to stick their heads out the

window and smell the air as it rushes by. Though it's sad to deprive them of this pleasure, many dogs are injured when road debris or insects fly into their eyes, nostrils or windpipe. They can also become ill by having cold air forced into their lungs. What's more, dogs have accidentally strangled themselves by stepping on the electric window control. So keep your dog inside.

8. **Skip the hot dog.** Your dog can't tell you if he's feeling hot or cold, so be aware of the temperature. If the humans are wearing jackets, perhaps Fido would appreciate a blanket.

In warm weather, open a window or raise the air conditioning to prevent overheating or dehydration. Direct sun can be hot. Consider sunshades if your windows aren't tinted. Keep in mind that while there are vents for the heat or A/C in the front of the car, there may not be any in the back.

Never leave your dog alone in the car! In the summer, the car's internal temperature can rise to fatal levels very quickly, even with the windows ajar.

9. **Take frequent breaks.** A dog's legs need to be stretched just like yours. Your dog also needs water, and potty breaks at regular intervals. Be sure to take him once around the block before jumping back in the car at rest stops. Taking time for your pet may also help you to take in some interesting sights along your trip.

10. **Avoid poison and choking hazards.** Some dogs will eat anything. While you snack in the front seat, avoid feeding your dog foods that are known canine toxins, such as chocolate, macadamia nuts, grapes, or raisins. Watch out for choking hazards in the car such as pennies, bones, socks, and small toys.

Continued on the next page

Molly's Energy Bars

1 Can(14-15 ounces) pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)

1 egg

1/4 cup applesauce

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

2 cups flour

1 cup quick oats

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Dash nutmeg

(1/2 cup finely chopped peanuts)

1. In a large bowl, combine pumpkin, egg, applesauce, and vanilla. Mix well.

2. Add all dry ingredients and stir until all flour is absorbed. The mixture will be a big ball of glop!

3. Pat mixture into greased 9x13" pan and bake at 350° F for 30-35 minute. A toothpick inserted in the center should come out clean.

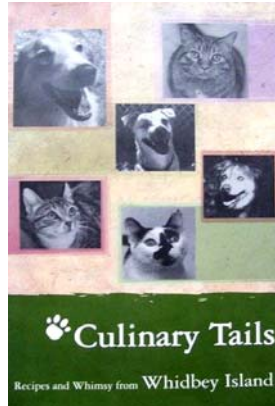
4. Cool before cutting into approximately 48 bars.

5. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.

Note: If your dog prefers a crispy

biscotti-like treat, try this: after the bars have cooled, cut them into 1" x 4" strips and lay them upside down on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 250° F for one hour. Cool on a rack. 🐾

*Submitted by
Joy & David
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from Culinary
Tails -
Recipes and
Whimsy from
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Island. by
Mark Rose
(editor).*



Play & Play Invitations

Since dog-dog play is very similar to serious things like fighting, hunting, and reproducing, dogs have good ritualistic ways of demonstrating that their intentions are peaceful and fun-loving.



Dog play is often initiated by a play invitation like a play bow or pawing the air (especially with puppies), and it seems to say, "None of the biting, stalking, or humping I'm about to do is serious, this is just fun, OK?"

Even when dogs play very roughly, they are usually fairly relaxed; their lips usually cover their teeth (not drawn back in a snarl).

If playing dogs get too aroused, you should intervene. If your dog is getting overwhelmed or is overwhelming someone else, invite them to take a short break. No punishment is necessary: it's just a breather, not a penalty. 🐾

*(Adapted from Stacy's Wag'N'Train
<http://www.wagntrain.com/bodylanguage.htm>)*

10 Travel Tips - Continued from page 2

Finally, ask your automotive dealer - or check out specialty web sites to see if there are any customized accessories for traveling with dogs. You might find a seat cover that fits like a glove; preventing fur, saliva, and mud from coming between you and your best friend. 🐾

*We're looking for your input on articles you'd like to see in the Daily Wag.
Please feel free to send your suggestions to info@fetchparks.org.*

I wish to support FETCH! with my contribution.

Suggested contribution levels: PAL (\$10) _____ Litter (for families) (\$15) _____ BUDDY (\$25) _____

We welcome donations in any amount \$_____. Please make your check out to FETCH!

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Please send my *Daily Wag* by (check one) Email: _____ Postal mail: _____ I'll read it on the web site: _____

Which FETCH! park do you visit the most (circle one): Marguerite Brons, Double Bluff, Patmore Pit, Clover Valley, Oak Harbor.

I would like to help at the parks _____, with office work _____, lots of things _____!!

Please mail to: FETCH!, PO Box 212, Langley, WA 98260

Oak Harbor Dog Park EXTREME MAKEOVER

The Oak Harbor Dog Park on Technical Drive has been one of our least-used parks, mainly because of the rough condition of the park. The weeds and blackberries had taken over, and it was just too big a job for our volunteers to clean up the park.



Wiatt Charlesworth

All that changed on September 10th, when Wiatt Charlesworth and his friends from Boy Scout Troop 4063 did an extreme makeover of the park.

A large crew of Boy Scouts and helpers ripped out blackberry

brambles and weeds, trimmed trees, chipped brush into mulch, built and installed benches and a picnic table, planted trees for shade, installed a message board at the entrance, and set up a water catchment system to collect rainwater for the dogs to drink.

The results are spectacular!! On behalf of the grateful and happy dogs of Whidbey Island (and their owners, of course!) we want to thank Wiatt and his crew for providing another awesome park on Whidbey Island! 🐾

Mower Man. Continued from page 1

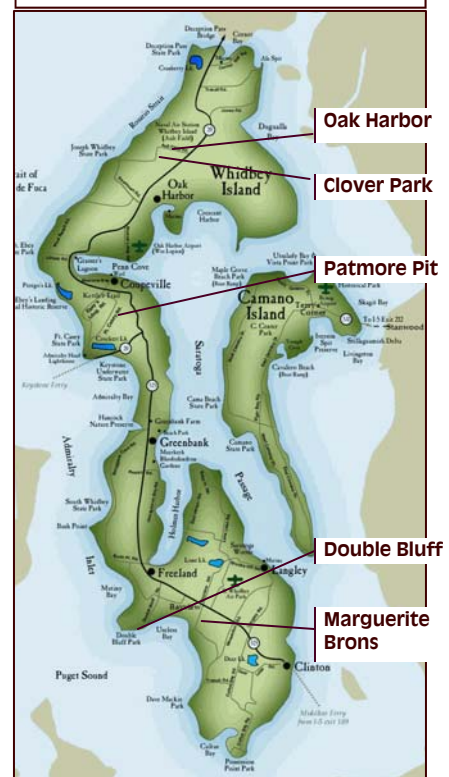
A little about myself: my wife Linda and I moved to Whidbey Island six years ago, when I retired from a career as Chief Estimator for several large engineering and construction firms. It was a very high-stress job, and moving to the laid back environment of Whidbey Island has been a very welcome change.

I enjoy building things from wood; I've built a double cedar-strip kayak, tables, and restored a couple of park benches, one of which is at Marguerite Brons. When the creative urge blossoms, I have also dabbled with wood sculpture.

Linda and I enjoy occasional travel in our motor home with Clara and Geben, and two of our three cats. I've found that the vast majority of the dog parks we stop at in our travels don't begin to measure up to ours here. I'm always glad to get back home to the great parks FETCH! maintains. We and our dogs enjoy being at these parks above all others.

I enjoy mowing the Marguerite Brons and Patmore Pit off-leash dog parks, and am so grateful that they exist for the enjoyment of us all. I thank FETCH! for making it all possible, and am happy to be able to do my small part in maintaining them. 🐾

FETCH! Parks



www.fetchparks.org

Check the FETCH! web site for updates on upcoming activities

www.fetchparks.org

FETCH! Free Exercise Time for Canines and their Humans

A Washington State 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

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Be responsible -- Scoop the poop. It's only right. **Spay and neuter** -- There really aren't enough homes for them all. **Supervise your pets** -- Don't allow them to roam, chase wildlife, or become nuisances. It's inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal.