



Grateful Dogs of Juneau

**Membership Meeting 2008
Sunday, January 13 at 4 pm
9174 Glacierwood (in the Valley)**

Annual Report to the Membership

Dear Members of the **Grateful Dogs of Juneau**:

The following is a summary of the accomplishments of GDOJ for 2007. I have also included my view of the shortcomings of GDOJ and the outlook for the future.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **Grateful Dogs of Juneau** has much for which to be proud.

Dog Walk - Sandy Beach. January 13, Saturday.

Dog Walk - Airport Dike Trail. February 18.

CBJ Dog Task Force. Spring, 2007. Grateful Dogs participated in the CBJ dog task force meetings on Mendenhall Lake Trail, artificial turf fields, and the Jensen arboretum.

Poop scoop - Sandy Beach. April 14, Saturday. Nine members and friends of Grateful Dogs spent more than an hour cleaning up the beach area. It was a great effort.

Canine Good Citizen Class. April 28 thru May 19.

Dog Walk - Airport Dike Trail. April 29, Sunday. A poop scoop scheduled for the Dike Trail on the same day was cancelled due to construction for the sewer line to Douglas Island.

Sandy Beach Broken Glass Clean Up. May 19, Saturday. Seventeen persons participated in the clean up. Over 80 pounds of broken glass and ceramics were collected. The Douglas Island Montessori School and members of the public helped in the clean up. The Juneau Watershed Partnership has requested that it included in any future glass clean up efforts.

Canine Good Citizen Evaluations. May 26, Saturday. The Grateful Dogs of Juneau sponsored evaluations for AKC Canine Good Citizens in May, 2007. Twelve dogs were evaluated, but none of the dogs qualified.

Dog Owner Education - Sandy Beach. May 30, Wednesday, June 1, Friday, and June 2, Saturday. Grateful Dogs is conducting a dog-owner education effort at Sandy Beach.

Members of Grateful Dogs greeted dog owners as they took their dogs down to the beach and encouraging them to clean-up after their dogs.

Patricia McConnell Seminar. June 9, Saturday. Grateful Dogs of Juneau was one of the sponsors of the seminar.

Poop scoop - Sandy Beach. July 1, Saturday . This was the annual clean up of Sandy Beach and Savviko Park in advance of the 4th of July celebrations at Sandy Beach.

Dog Owner Education - Airport Dike Trail. July 18, Wednesday. Members of Grateful Dogs greeted dog owners using the Dike Trail to encourage them to clean up after their dogs.

Dog Walk - Boy Scout Camp Trail. July 22, Sunday.

Garage Sale Fund Raiser - August 18, Saturday. The Grateful Dogs was able to raise over \$400 through the garage sale.

Poop Scoop - Airport Dike Trail. September 3, Monday, Labor Day.

Responsible Dog Ownership Day – 2007. September 8, Saturday. Ten organizations and businesses joined Grateful Dogs in celebrating RDO Day 2007. This was one of the more successful RDO Days in recent history.

SHORTCOMINGS

On the down side, GDOJ was not able to maintain the strong momentum with which it started the year. During the second half of the year, there were virtually no poop scoops, even though the need was quite evident. The poop scoops that were held during 2007 were confined to the Airport Dike trail and Sandy Beach. Other trails, such as the Brotherhood Bridge Trail, the glacier and Dredge Lake trails, and the North Douglas trails were never touched by Grateful Dogs. Also, public education efforts through the media and direct contacts with dog owners to promote responsible dog ownership have been lacking.

This slow down in activities is attributable in part to the ineffectiveness of the board of Grateful Dogs. The board has not been able to hold a meeting since August because a quorum (3 board members) could not be achieved. Without an active and working board, it is difficult to maintain a schedule of activities to educate dog owners, conduct public service activities such as the poop scoops, advocate on behalf of responsible dog owners, and enjoy the company of other responsible dog owners through the dog walks.

OUTLOOK

Overall, I am optimistic about the future of Grateful Dogs. First of all, there is a strong and continuing need in Juneau for an organization to do what Grateful Dogs seeks to do. Second, without the efforts Grateful Dogs and like-minded dog owners in the community, the relatively favorable attitude of the Juneau community towards dogs will deteriorate

and community disgust with dog owners will provoke more restrictive regulations and more enforcement. It is the enlightened self-interest and civic mindedness of responsible dog owners that will maintain Grateful Dogs as a viable organization.

In regard to future activities, Grateful Dogs should consider whether to participate in Kid Safe to teach safety around dogs and whether to sponsor Responsible Dog Ownership Day in 2008. I am sure that you can think of other activities that would promote responsible dog ownership and promote a more dog-friendly, and friendly dog, community.

George Utermohle
Board Member
2007 President
Grateful Dogs of Juneau

P.S. Request

The continued viability of the Grateful Dogs of Juneau is dependent on the active involvement of responsible dog owners. An important first step is to assure that the board of Grateful Dogs has a full complement of active board members. Please consider serving on the board. The only qualifications are a belief in responsible dog ownership and a willingness to spend the time necessary maintain an active and functioning board. Please contact me (586-3849 or norwaypt@gci.net), if you would be interested in serving on the board or have questions about the board.

The annual meeting is being held on Sunday, January 13 at 4 pm. The meeting is hosted by Jill Grose at her home in the Mendenhall Valley. The address is 9174 Glacierwood. Jill's place is in the vicinity of the Juneau Racquet Club and the Yard Doctor. Call Jill at 789-3239 if you need directions.

Your attendance at the annual meeting is important to establish a quorum for the election of members of the board of directors. Please attend and bring your membership renewal form to the meeting. The meeting should take less than 2 hours.

There are four positions to be filled on the board. Two positions will be for two-year terms. Two positions are to be filled for a one-year term. Please consider serving on the board.