

2005

DOG'S LIFE

A guide to good living from  **Beneful**
www.dogsfood.com

**GREAT DOG
PARKS**

Poochercise

Get fit, have fun together

Plus: **FUN WITH
YOUR PUPPY**



Welcome to DOG'S LIFE

Dear Reader,

As a dog owner you know the joys of what we here at Beneful® call the "daily reunion." It's the moment when you walk in the door and are back together with your best friend—your beloved dog. There are big moments in life, but we believe that these small ones are what really make your relationship with your dog so special. It's your daily reminder of how deep that bond is. The tail wags, your puppy leaps up and bounds for the door, and every trouble you have melts away.

Celebrating that special moment and what it represents is what Dog's Life is all about. We hope to expand your horizons and enrich your relationship with your dog. Maybe you'd like to try out some fun new dog toys (page 2), learn about dog acupressure (page 9), or visit a great dog park (page 10). Whatever you do, let that pooch know how much you appreciate him. You know how much he appreciates you. From all of us at Beneful, thank you for making us a part of your life and your dog's life.

Woof, Henry and the Beneful Team



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A DAY IN

READY FOR PLAY? These parks

Looking for something different and fun to do with your dog? Why not take him to the hottest sniffing spots in town? Dog parks have become a meet-and-greet must for Fido and Fifi. They can flirt, bark, and run off-leash to their heart's content in a protected environment.

These outings are playdates for your dog. "The important thing is socialization," say veterinarian Wes Borgman of the Kissimmee Animal Hospital in Kissimmee, FL. The exercise encouraged by the parks is not to be ignored either, Borgman says, because pooches can pile on pounds just like their two-legged friends. The following dog parks lead the pack:

Marymoor, Redmond, WA

It isn't just a dog park. At 40 acres, it's an ecosystem. "It's so busy that sometimes it doesn't seem like that much," Marymoor program manager Norah Gaynor says. The fenced grass terrain features a river—the perfect diving-off point for water breeds. Keep your pet within the control of your voice, and he can roam all he wants. Muddy pooches can be accompanied to the dog wash van parked outside one of the three entrances, all of which are double-gated. Conscientious visitors maintain the park's grandeur. "It's definitely a regional attraction," Gaynor says. *6046 W. Lake Sammamish Pkwy. NE, 206/296-2966*

Fort Funston, San Francisco

For sand, sea, and serenity, the Bay Area's canine cognoscenti flock to **San Francisco's FORT FUNSTON**. After hiking on a trail with incredible views of the city, you reach off-leash nirvana: hundreds of dogs running and splashing along the Pacific shore. It's a favorite spot for the city's dog walkers to take their charges. Although the wide-open coast would seem to benefit exercise-hungry larger breeds, Jorge Ortiz says his terrier mix Chorizo sprints like a greyhound once he sets foot on the beach. "There are other decent places to go with a dog in the city, but they're not nearly as big as Fort Funston," Ortiz says. *Skyline Boulevard, just past John Muir Dr., 415/239-2366*

Millie Bush Bark Park, Houston

Named after President George H. W. Bush's White House springer spaniel, it's a leader in Texas' growing off-leash friendliness. Packed into 15 thoughtfully designed acres are an enclosed area with a pond for small dogs and a larger space with two ponds for large dogs. There are decorative fire hydrants, doggy showers, shade trees, and a walking path. The park tends to attract more large breeds, says Jill Cruz of the Houston Dog Park Association, but all comers are welcome. "People drive for an hour to use the park," Cruz says. "It really sets the standard." *16756 Westheimer Pkwy., 713/523-5235*



THE PARK

are worth a special trip. BY RON DICKER

Minnehaha Park



Wiggly Field



Piedmont Park



Paw Park



Paw Park

Paw Park, Sanford, FL

An oak tree felled by Hurricane Francis has become the focus of activity at **PAW PARK**. Dogs play king of the hill, conduct sniff-and-greet sessions, and climb over the trunk, says Mike Knipfer of the Friends of Paw Park. Towers spray mist, faux fire hydrants attracts business, and wheelchair access to the paved path allows almost everyone access. “Dogs will be better at home when they’re in a setting that’s neutral territory,” says Knipfer, whose black Lab, Jessie, and Chesapeake Bay retriever, Kayla, are regulars. There are showers for the dogs, but watching an owner react to Rover rolling in the muck is an activity in itself, Knipfer says. All can agree on a final stop: the dog bakery. 427 S. French Ave., 407/330-5688

Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis

A trail winds through the woods of **MINNEHAHA PARK in Minneapolis** and offers the ultimate payoff: a leap into the Mississippi River. It is the most picturesque off-leash area in a dog-loving town, says Deb Boyd, a landscape architect with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation. Natural features get tails wagging. Man and beast often stage a riverside bonfire to keep the stick-fetching going well into the night. “I’ve never seen a dog not having fun there,” Boyd says. “They are always very happy.” 5399 S. Minnehaha Park Dr., 612/230-6400

Wiggly Field, Chicago

Canines cavort in **Chicago's WIGGLY FIELD**, an inner-city charmer about a mile from the Cubs' baseball home, Wrigley Field. Some Cubs players do take their pets there, but the bigger attractions are the trees, a fountain in which to frolic, agility equipment (instructors are available), and a loving vibe. “It’s such an urban oasis,” says Wiggly cofounder Stacey Hawk, who brings her four German shepherds. In summer, volunteers put out water bowls and restaurants nearby turn their patios into bowwow boites with food especially for furry patrons. As for the El train roaring, it’s more a scene-setter than a distraction. “It doesn’t faze the dogs,” Hawk says. “They don’t pay attention.” 2645 N. Sheffield Ave., 773/348-2832

Piedmont Park, Atlanta

Like most of the four-legged visitors to **Atlanta's PIEDMONT DOG PARK**, Kendra Cotton's boxer, Lizzy, is seduced by the surrounding hills, oversize trees, and the long running area. A boulder occupies the four-legged climbers while several benches provide a respite for humans to rest their tired dogs of the five-toed variety. The park attracts users from 50 miles around because it has become the model for an emerging “dog owners’ subculture” in Atlanta, Cotton says. “The dogs in this park are smiling.” It stays open until 11 p.m. Watch for Saturday get-togethers called “Beer Barks.” Piedmont Ave. NE and 14th St., 404/875-PARK (7275)