

SEPTEMBER 24 TO 30, 2006

NATIONAL DOG WEEK

Getting a dog is a serious commitment

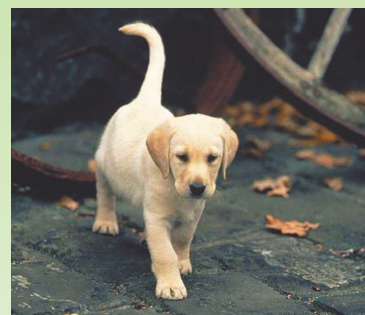
National Dog Week, celebrated from September 24 to 30 this year, is an occasion to highlight the qualities as well as the many benefits of these exceptional animals. It is also the time to sensitize the population to the needs of dogs and to the treatment that they deserve. There are a great many people who profess their love of dogs, but the number of dogs that are neglected, mistreated, and abandoned is also great.

For this reason, before allowing yourself to be seduced by any animal's particular appeal, carefully consider your decision to acquire a dog. Dog ownership is a long-term commitment; a dog will share your life for ten to fifteen years on average. Also remember that along with the enjoyment of this new dog's friendship and affection will come many responsibilities that you must be ready to assume.

Every new dog owner must be fully prepared to fulfill the physical and emotional needs of a dog by committing to the following:

- respect your dog, accept its character, and train it without excessive domination;
- provide your dog with space, food, vaccinations, and the care required for its well-being and good health;
- devote some time every day to playing with your dog, hugging it, and walking it;
- ensure that your dog doesn't harm its surroundings or the environment; and
- accept the restraints that your dog's presence imposes (on your holidays or furniture, for example).

If you are not ready to fully assume all of these responsibilities, you should forget the idea of getting a dog. A loyal and generous companion, a dog deserves to receive as much from you.



Taking care of a dog involves many responsibilities that you must be ready to assume.

New leash Free Dog Zone commenced Sun. Sept. 24, 2006 at Cedarvale Park in Georgetown

Following these rules will ensure that all pets and owners will have a fun and enjoyable time.

- Don't forget to pick up after your dog
- Don't eat food inside the park
- Don't let your dog wander off... *have control at all times*
- Don't let your dogs fight
- Don't leave unattended children in the park
- Don't bring toys into the park... *unless you are prepared to share them with the other dogs*
- The rule is the **AGGRESSIVE DOG MUST LEAVE**

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