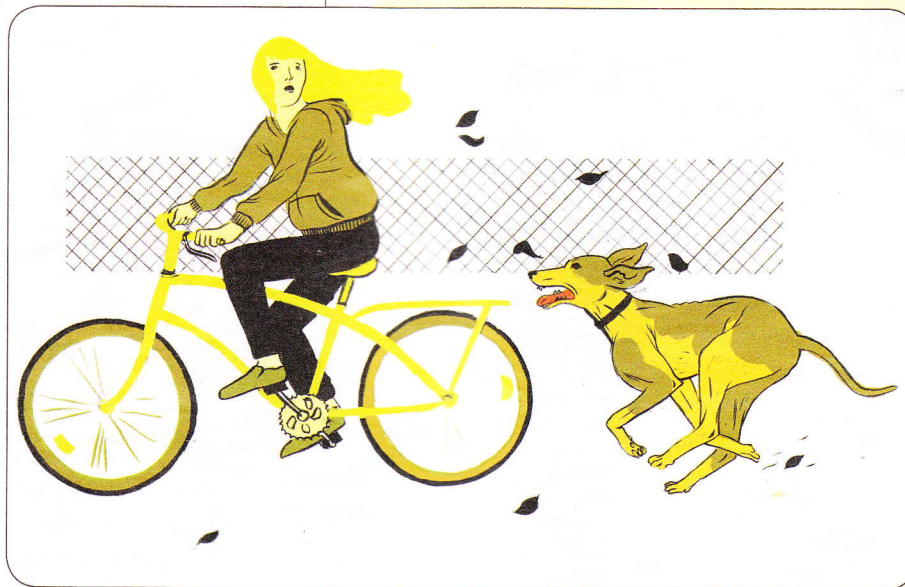


## A Walk in the (Dog) Park

**H**eads up: off-leash does not mean out of control. That's the biggest faux pas on evidence at the 138 dog parks that criss-cross Calgary's landscape, says trainer Jade Robertson, owner of Where's Your Sit? "People absolutely have to have recall on their dog. That's No. 1," Robertson says, noting that some dogs are naturally more inclined to come when called. "People during the week are pretty good (about controlling their animals). Weekends can be a gong show at the dog parks in Calgary, though." So while a jaunt at the dog park can be a wonderful outing, full of exercise and socialization, be prepared before you unclip that leash:

- Honestly assess your pooch: does it want to gambol about with its fellow canines or is it happier at home with its people? Not every dog wants to—or should—enter a free-roaming off-leash area.
- Very young dogs should be monitored so as not to be overwhelmed or traumatized by older dogs.
- If your dog's in heat, keep the bitch home. Seriously. Ditto if the hound is sick or isn't up to date with its shots.
- If Buster has bad hips, he should probably skip the dog park. Ditto for a rescue dog, at least during its first few weeks in a new home.
- Pick up after your pooch. The fine for failing to stoop and scoop is \$250, inside or outside an off-leash area.
- Newsflash: the parking lots at off-leash areas are not off-leash.
- If a City pathway crosses through the off-leash area, dogs must be on-leash. Can't we all just get along?
- Know the difference between roughhousing and fighting. Dogs have different play styles, Robertson says. As they play, "their arousal level goes up and it's easy for it to go from really roughhousing to more of a spat, so be aware of what your dog's arousal level is."
- Unless your pooch is okay with everyone and their dog—literally—going after its favourite toy, leave the plaything at home.



## UNLEASH THE HOUNDS IN

### 1. SANDY BEACH/RIVER PARK 4500 14A ST. S.

There are benches and picnic tables for you, a dog fountain for Fido to romp with. The real attraction for the retrieving set, of course, is the water. Be aware, however, that the City has plans to redevelop the area, from 35 hectares to 21.9. Access to the Elbow will be maintained, but the park will be about in. The draft report on River Park/Sandy Beach/Britannia S presentation, originally scheduled for May 5, has been delayed.

### 2. SOUTHLAND PARK Eastern terminus of Southland

Created in 1994, this park has been too popular for its own good, with its natural areas, including along the Bow River. The redevelopment

ing, with the complete. T Rover to run ated "hollow beg for a go you've had put the pup the east sid the lovely C population

### 3. NOSP

entrances, and Edgen off-leash t

Now, before all in a tang 11.27-square for Fifi to ro

however. Head to the top of this stunning example of high-plains who will delight in a multi-use zone the size of 424 football fields plenty of wildlife—including canine-unfriendly porcupines and coy that make this one of Calgary's favourite parks, paws down.

### 4. TOM CAMPBELL'S HILL 25 St. George's Dr. N.E.

Formerly ranchland (and, for a short time, pasture for some animal Bridgeland is close to the downtown core. In addition to a healthy area on a hill offers a panoramic view of the city, from the Bow Valley And while you're chilling with your canine, you can quite literally lo Deerfoot. Ah, good times!

## adopt a dog

### Misty Creek All Dog Rescue

**Year established:** 1998.

**Dogs placed in 2009:** 274.

**Specialty areas:** Most dogs are rescued from the First Nations reserves in Alberta.

**Adoption fees:** Unaltered puppies are \$275 plus GST; spayed/neutered dogs/puppies are \$325 plus GST; a \$100 refundable deposit is required to ensure spaying/neutering on all pups.

**Adoption process:** Pre-adoption applications must be completed and approved before a visit with the dog is arranged, and Misty Creek reserves the right to refuse an adoption. Once the family has the opportunity to meet the dog and decides to proceed, Misty Creek performs a home-check. Upon completion and approval, the adoption is finalized.

**Contact:** mistycreekdogrescue.com.

### Am I the Dog for You?

**Jessie** has come a long way from a reserve. She now plays well with other dogs and loves to go for jogs and has settled in with her family. The two-year-old Lab mix is friendly and weighs about 40 pounds. She would do well at home with another dog, with no children. She is perfect with people willing to help her build

# Y'S MOST WANTED

ousands of dogs in town—ever been to Southland Dog  
—but these four archetypes get our tongues wagging.

ustrations by Byron Eggenschwiler

## st in a Teacup

ature, massive in attitude,  
cess pup is mistress of all she  
from her pampered perch in a  
dog tote. When not being  
around town, she can be found  
salon, having her nails done.



## Leader of the Pack

Every dog wants to be him, every bitch wants to  
be with him and every owner wants a dog that oozes  
charisma like this cool and collected canine does.  
You can find him kicking back with his crew outside  
the cafés of Kensington and the watering holes along  
17th Avenue.

## orking-Class Hero

he other dogs might get by on looks alone, this honest Joe earns his  
o, whether in a furniture store in Inglewood, in the backseat of a po-  
car or in the cab of a moving van. When not on the job, you can find  
sacked out in a puddle of sunshine.

## Jenny from the Block

Ubiquitous in suburbia, the  
bijon-Shih Tzu would be easy to  
hate if she weren't so darn lov-  
able. From her fuzzy face to her  
gentle nature and playful ways,  
she is a small family dog with  
a big heart. Spot her going for  
frequent walkies, accompanying  
mom in the minivan and sleep-  
ing at the foot of the kid's bed.



3 of a K9d

## Higher Learning

### you oughta be in pictures

You know your fur baby is a star in waiting. Pass  
the time until the rest of the universe catches on  
by enrolling in six-week Movie Dog classes  
(Level 1 and 2.) Learn show biz commands such as  
"head down," "go to mark," "bond" and "get me my  
agent, now!" in classes taught by Superdog  
Spectrum owner and movie dog-wrangler  
Lori Boyle (*Snow Buddies*, *Into the West*).  
\$180, Superdog Spectrum, 7660, 510 77th Ave.  
S.E., 403-217-8737, superdogsspectrum.ca


### out and about

It's one thing for Rover to sit. It's quite another  
for him to sit on the corner of 7th Street S.W.  
when a C-train whizzes by. Prepare your pup  
for the mean streets of Calgary with a course  
tailored for city living. The Urban Dog Program  
covers topics such as loose-leash walking,  
sit for crossing the street, down stays, drop  
to a down and general etiquette.  
\$120 for four classes, additional classes  
\$25 each, Where's Your Sit, 403-397-4575,  
wheresyoursit.com.

### might as well jump

Your Rover is so over the whole "sit!" "stay!"  
"bring me a glass of Sauvignon Blanc!" thing.  
So how do you engage your smarter-than-the-  
average-bear dog now that they've mastered the  
basics? Search out agility training designed to keep  
your canine on his toes and thinking, and you'll  
have one happy (and tired) dog on your hands  
after a weekly session on the obstacle course.  
\$100 for six-week session, K9 Express,  
403-202-5999, k9express.rocky-dog.com.

## Am I the Dog for You?

Actually, that should read "Are We the Dogs for You?" Best buds  
**Tori** and **Babe** have been together for 10 years and need  
to be placed in a home as a pair. They are loving, calm dogs  
that do well with all people—including kids—and just like to hang  
out and have a walk now and then. Because the senior pooches  
need to be adopted as a pair, Pawsitive Match is waiving the  
formal adoption fee, although a donation would be appreciated. 



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