Cache Community Dog Park
Logan, Cache County, Utah

A Proposal to Develop an Off-Leash Dog Park in Cache Valley
By the Cache Humane Society
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1.0 Cache Humane Society Background

The Cache Humane Society has a rich and long history of serving the citizens of Cache Valley with their animal related problems. The Society was first chartered in 1975, under the name Cache Animal Protection League (CAPL) and later renamed in 1991 to the Cache Humane Society. For the first 30 years of its existence, the organization functioned like a foster care program, taking unwanted animals and placing them in private residences from which the animals were adopted into permanent homes. Over 10,000 animals were assisted in this manner.

In the late 1990s, the Cache Humane Society began planning and developing the resources to build a shelter. Shelter construction began in 2002 and was completed in 2005. Due to access issues, occupancy was not allowed until October, 2008. Since its opening, the shelter has handled, 1,504 dogs and 1,255 cats (2,889 total all types of animals). Of those animals that were handled, 858 dogs were adopted into permanent homes and 224 were returned their rightful owners; 581 cats were adopted and 52 were returned to their rightful owners. (Numbers are from October 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010).

The shelter now runs four core areas of operation aimed at assisting the public with their animal related problems, and six programs aimed at helping to either educate the public on their stewardship responsibilities or help the unwanted and stray animals become more adoptable. Most recently, the shelter has begun offering low cost spay and neuters to the general public to help decrease the number of unwanted animals in our community.

2.0 Community Dog Park Mission Statement

The mission for the Community Dog Park is to create a multi-use area that would:

1. Provide a fenced, off-leash dog park in Cache Valley where people and their well-behaved dogs could socialize and exercise in a clean and safe environment without endangering or disturbing people, property, or wildlife.

2. Provide a secondary use as an area designated for animals in the city, county, and region’s Emergency Operations/Preparedness Plan.

3. Provide area for future expansion of the Cache Humane Society shelter as needed.
3.0 What is an Off-Leash Dog Park?

A dog park is a fenced, designated area where licensed and permitted dogs may legally run, play, and socialize with each other “off-leash” under the supervision and voice control of their owners.

A basic off-leash dog park should include the following components:

- A minimum of four acres of land surrounded by a six-foot high chain-link fence;
- At least one double-gated entry for each area to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access;
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags, and pooper scooper stations;
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables;
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely; and
- Parking close to the park.

A more advanced off-leash dog park may include some of the following components:

- Walkways
- Covered or pavilion areas
- Information kiosks or boards
- Water features for training and play
- Separate puppy or small dogs, and large dog areas
- Agility training areas
- Washing stations
- Public restrooms
4.0 Why Establish an Off-Leash Dog Park?

Historically, dogs have played a vital role in our lives. Dogs have served as our family protectors, hunting companions, and law enforcers. Dogs have served as the eyes and ears of the blind and deaf, and as the arms and legs of the disabled. They have been our best friends. More and more, society has recognized the many important roles that dogs play in our lives.

As dogs become a more integral part of our lives, we have seen a change in the way that people think about dogs. There has been an increase in the pet product market, popularity of dog sports (flyball, agility, tracing, lure coursing, etc), and a substantial jump in the amount of money people area willing to spend to keep their pets healthy.

Dogs and dog owners are no longer a group to be overlooked. As a specific group with special interests and concerns, dog owners deserve the same consideration as other community groups when allocating funding and resources. To its credit, Logan City has set aside recreation space for numerous groups including: soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, and tennis players; wildlife and nature enthusiasts; cyclists and joggers; gardeners; swimmers; and ice skaters. For the most part, dogs have been specifically excluded from many of Logan City’s recreational areas. This has resulted in a lack of designated space for the 7,240 estimated dogs and their owners in Logan.

Establishing the Cache Community Dog Park would have many benefits to dog-owners, dogs, and the overall community.

4.1 Community Benefits

- Communities with off-leash dog parks often see a decrease in the number of dogs off-leash in other areas of the community, thereby decreasing the number of unwanted encounters in areas set aside for other recreational users.
- Dogs who area properly socialized and have plenty of exercise are better neighbors and are less prone to nuisance barking and roaming.
- Dogs who are exercised and allowed to run freely are less likely to be aggressive, thereby decreasing the risk of dog-related injuries in Logan City neighborhoods.
- Off-leash dog parks promote responsible dog ownership through both formal education efforts to be offered by the Cache Humane Society and the general expectations of park users (picking up after one’s dog, maintaining voice control, etc).
- Off-leash dog parks provide a measure of security, both perceived and real, to potentially vulnerable users (the handicapped, single women, elderly). The presence of a dog and other park users would deter crime.
- A well developed dog park brings local attention and amenities to our area that are deemed good and progressive. There are now over 2,000 dog parks across the U.S.
° A well developed dog park can bring in attractions (e.g. dog/cat shows) and events (e.g. sanctioned agility type competitions) that bring in business, jobs and money.

### 4.1.1 Dog Owner Benefits

The establishment of a designated dog park provides numerous benefits to dog owners:
° Provides an opportunity for dog owners to meet and socialize with other dog owners.
° Provide educational opportunities and a centralized location to offer them.
° Provides dog owners with a place to recreate with their dogs, providing the owners, as well as the dogs, with much needed exercise.
° Provides a place for handicapped and elderly persons to exercise their dogs in a barrier-free environment.
° Increases dog owners voice control over their dogs.
° Provide dog owners with the simple joy of watching their dogs be dogs (playing, running, and enjoying their surroundings off-leash).

### 4.1.2 Dog Benefits

The establishment of a designated dog park provides numerous benefits to our companion animals:
° Provides a safe enclosed place for dogs to play.
° Provides dogs with an opportunity to socialize with other dogs.
° Provides dogs with “mental exercise” by exposing dogs to new and varied stimuli.
° Provides dogs with the opportunity to run off-leash.
° Reduces dog obesity and other related diseases.
° Decreases boredom and its associated destructive behaviors.

### 4.2 Emergency Operations/Preparedness Plan

“Congress Considers PETS Act: The act would help keep pets and their owners together during a disaster.”

The city of Logan has an Emergency Operations Plan that states: “The purpose of the Municipal Country Disaster Plan is to help reduce or avoid loss of life, injury, and/or loss or damage to property associated with natural hazard events, and technological/man-made hazard events, and terrorist activities.” The plan is a tool to be used by city officials/personnel as they prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency incidents. Though no plan is failsafe, nor can it cover every contingency, large scale disasters such as Hurricane Katrina have taught us that emergency operations should include an animal component. Neither the city of Logan, nor Cache County currently have an animal annex to their emergency preparedness plans. We are currently working to help develop those annexes, and it is our hope that through good planning, the proposed dog park would serve as a processing and holding area for a large number of animals in case of a disaster or emergency situation. This is a relevant issue to consider, since it is estimated that there are 20,368 households that own pets in Cache County with an estimated 22,400 dogs and 25,300 cats. The estimates for Logan city alone are 12,300 dogs and 13,900 cats.
residing in the city limits. (Numbers based on 2000 Census and American Veterinary Medical Association’s animal estimates). Additional companion animal estimates for the rest of Cache Valley and the surrounding region are added as an attachment to this document.

### 4.3 Cache Humane Society Benefits

- Provide a fun, safe environment for potential dog-owners to get to know their potential future pet.
- Provide large, safe, centralized location to hold and process lost animals in the event of a major disaster.
- Create centralized location to offer training events.
- Boost animal welfare education and awareness.
- Provide additional area for CHS to expand.

### 5.0 Proposed Site and Administration

#### 5.1 Site

CHS is proposing to purchase an approximately 10-acre parcel, bordering the existing CHS property to the south (Appendix or Figure reference). The property is identified as parcel number 05-057-0002 and is currently owned by Logan City. The parcel is zoned as a Gateway Development area. Initial meetings with Logan City’s Mayor, Finance Director, Environmental Director, and Planning Director indicate that the development of the site for the proposed purpose fits within the long-term plan of the city.

#### 5.2 Administration

Cache Humane Society would own, operate, and maintain the dog park.

### 6.0 Off-Leash Recreation Area Design Specifics

CHS has developed a conceptual park design (Appendix A) that includes the following amenities:

- Grading and surfacing of the park entrance and the parking lot.
- Approximately 5 acres of grass area within the park.
- Appropriate signage.
- An information kiosk in a location TBD to be used for posting of park rules and regulations, education opportunities, events, and notices.
- Benches and picnic tables to be distributed throughout the park.
- Covered pavilion(s).
• ADA-accessible graded and surfaced paths throughout the park.
• Water feature.
• Public restrooms.
• Agility course.
• Drinking fountains and wash stations.
• Animal staging areas in the event of a catastrophic event, in accordance with EOP, or for public events and shows.
• Separate use area for small breed/puppy and large breed dogs.
• Trash receptacles and waste disposal stations.

7.0 Usage Guidelines and Park Rules

The following dog park rules and guidelines are, at this time, suggestions only and are open to being modified. All dog park users would be required to have their animal licensed from their municipality, and have proof of vaccinations. All dog park guidelines and rules would be in accordance with Logan City Code, unless stated otherwise.

7.1 Usage Guidelines

Regular park hours would be Monday through Sunday (not affected by Holidays) from sunup until sundown. The public arena and other amenities can be reserved any day of the week between from sunup until sundown. Sanctioned events, shows, or tournaments may be given special consideration and use of the area.

7.2 Suggested Dog Park Rules

• Dog owners must carry a leash.
• Owners must clean up after their dogs.
• Limit 3 dogs per session per visit.
• Dogs must be under voice control and in sight of owners.
• Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior must be leashed.
• Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.
• Puppies using the park must be older than 4 months.
• Spayed and neutered animals recommended.
• No smoking allowed within the fenced area.
• Dogs “in season” not allowed.
• Owners are responsible to cover holes or turf damage caused by pets.
• Children running or chasing dogs in prohibited.
• Park users and dog owners assume all risks related to the dog park. \textit{CHS, Cache County, and Logan City, its officers, employees and agents shall not be responsible for any accident, injury and/or loss of property or damage resulting from use of the park by any individual, group or organization.}

\section*{8.0 Estimated Development and Maintenance Cost, and Funding}
Funding sources for the acquisition of the land, and the development and maintenance of the park would include: 1) private and public support in the form of donations obtained through fundraising efforts; 2) grant provided by organizations such as FEMA for the development of an area for emergency preparedness; and 3) commercial endeavors, such as selling of advertising space along the fences and kiosks. Additional funding sources/ideas have been considered and not ruled out at this time.

\subsection*{8.1 Estimated Development}
Minimum estimated capital costs are $335,000:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Land acquisition \hfill $100,000
  \item Parking lot, 50 stalls \hfill $98,500
  \item Landscaping \hfill $16,000
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Planting/seed/mulch
      \item Signage
      \item Metal benches
      \item Trash receptacles
      \item Dog bag stands
    \end{itemize}
  \item Utilities \hfill $40,500
    \begin{itemize}
      \item 2” water service
      \item 2 drinking fountains
      \item Plumbing
      \item Underground septic
      \item Lighting
    \end{itemize}
  \item Fencing \hfill $53,000
    \begin{itemize}
      \item 6’ high perimeter fence
      \item 6’ galvanized double entry gates
    \end{itemize}
  \item Miscellaneous \hfill $7,000
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Erosion control
      \item Site preparation
      \item Plans/Permits
    \end{itemize}
  \item Contingency \hfill $20,000
\end{itemize}

\subsection*{8.2 Estimated Annual operation Costs}
Annual operation costs are estimated to be a minimum of $11,500. (Assumptions: Volunteers will patrol daily/weekly and conduct routine clean-up and maintenance).

\begin{itemize}
  \item Turf Management \hfill $2,500
    \begin{itemize}
      \item Mowing 7-10 day cycle/6 months
    \end{itemize}
\end{itemize}
° Seeding/Turf Repair/Weed Control $1,500
° Water/septic $1,700
° Electric $1,200
° Dog waste bags $1,000
° Trail maintenance $500
° Snow removal $500
° Parking lot maintenance $250
° Trash pickup $1,000
° Fence Repair $1,000
° Minor equipment and supplies $350

9.0 Project Support

Over the last two months, approximately 1,500 local resident signatures were gathered in support of the proposed park. (The gathering of signatures began the second part of April 2010).

10.0 Additional Statistics

The following statistics are meant to provide a clearer picture of trends and the value companion animals provide the American population. As Logan and the surrounding area continue to develop, it will be increasingly important to acknowledge and serve the population of pet owners.

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association:

- There are approximately 68,000,000 owned dogs in the United States.
- Four in ten households own at least one dog.
- Most owners own one dog (63%).
- About \( \frac{1}{4} \) of dog owners (24%) own two dogs.
- 13% of dog owners own three or more dogs.
- On average, dog owners have almost two dogs (1.7)
- There are an equal number of male and female dogs owned in the U.S.
- 20% of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter.
- On average, dog owners spent $196 on veterinary related expenses in the past 12 months.
- Seven out of ten owned dogs are spayed or neutered.

In addition, relating to pet travel, 14% of all U.S. adults (29.1 million) say they have traveled with a pet on a trip of 50 miles or more, one-way, away from home in the past three years. Dogs in the most common type of pet to take (78%) and cats are second at 15%. The percentage of households traveling with pets most likely increases during the summer when more families travel on vacation. Auto or truck is the primary mode of transportation (76%), followed by RV (10%), and airline (6%). While travelers with pets most often stay with friends/relatives (32%), an almost equal number stay at hotels or motels (29%).