



SEMINAR: *Playing It Safe at the Dog Park*

Everyone has heard what to do with sleeping dogs, but is it equally smart to let playing dogs play?

On May 31 in Belfast, canine behavior counselors Kate Dutra and Don Hanson will give a detailed answer to that question, discussing how to "stack the deck" for a happy experience at a dog park. They will discuss canine play styles and how to pick up on body language and playmate configurations that could mean trouble, and when and how to intervene in canine play or squabbles. Using slides of dogs playing in daycare at Bangor's Green Acres Kennel Shop, where Dutra is operations manager and Hanson is co-owner and director of behavior counseling and training, they will help participants read canine body language to understand when and often why dynamics have shifted.

"In the nine months since the Belfast Dog Park opened, the vast majority of experiences there have been resoundingly positive," says Carol Good, president of Friends of Belfast Parks, which built the dog park for the city and also is sponsoring the May 31 presentation.

"There have been a few heart-stopping moments, though, and most dog owners would much rather see those coming and ward them off. Kate and Don do an outstanding job of showing how to do that."

"Playing It Safe at the Dog Park" is a reprise of an interactive and enthusiastically received seminar which premiered last July. It will take place again on **May 31st at 1-3 pm in the Abbott Room of the Belfast Free Library, 106 High St.** The session is for human beings only, and admission is by donation. For more information, click on "Dog Park" at friendsofbelfastparks.org or call 338-1704.

