



Hi ,  
The Rights of Spring

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**Your Eastham Dog Pack**

We are currently at 169 EDOA member households.  
**Thanks for your support!**

**Upcoming**

- April 22d—Earth Day Cleanup (more info below).
- April 23d—Rabies Clinic: Eastham Police (rear bay). 10 a.m.—12 noon  
*Sponsored by Eastham Veterinary Hospital and Eastham Board of Health.*
- May 21st- Bow Wow Bash: . Noon. Campground Beach. Free to all.

**What is EDOA Up To These Days?**

1. Linda Wood, director, has completed the new brochure. It will be unveiled at the Eastham Rabies Clinic and broadly available.
2. EDOA Joined the Earth Day cleanup. (See post right.)
3. Planning rolls along for the Bow Wow Bash. If you care to help out, e-mail us at [info@easthamdog.org](mailto:info@easthamdog.org) May 21st at Campground Beach.
4. The Buddy Scholarship applications are being judged. Award(s) will be announced at the Bow Wow Bash.
5. We are working on new member discounts. As soon as we have confirmation, they will be posted on [our Member Discounts page.](#)

**Earth Day Cleanup**

- Coordinated by The Eastham Chamber of Commerce
- Friday, April 22, 2022 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT  
[Add to Calendar](#)
- EDOA has volunteered to work at Wiley Park. Join is and bring your pup.
- All necessary supplies provided or bring your own.

**Don't miss out on Member Discounts**

We try to make our discount program advantageous for the vendors as well as the members. Please be aware that it is important to:

1. **Show your membership card.** In the past we provided a list to vendors but it was impossible to keep it updated, so the printout of your card is a key to getting your discount.
2. **Indicate you have an EDOA discount BEFORE** placing your order or agreeing to service. Some members have lost out on significant discounts due to being unaware of this requirement. Billing changes cost everyone.

Education Program Special Guest Commentary

**The Comfort of Dogs**

- Jeff Idels

Hearts and Paws Comfort Dogs is a new nonprofit organization made up of dog lovers committed to “enriching lives with unconditional love”, by sharing the comfort and love of our specially trained dogs. We currently have about thirty members, mainly on the Upper and Mid Cape, and we’re eager to expand our reach into the Lower and Outer Cape. By bringing our dogs to schools, libraries and other venues, we’re able to share the healing power of these amazing animals. We’re all volunteers and we never charge for our visits. As members of the Eastham Dog Owners Association, you surely know it’s well documented that being with dogs help both children and adults release stress, heal from emotional traumas and simply feel better.

The special training referred to is that every dog that goes on a visit must have passed the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen (CGC) exam (we provide guidance on how to get this done). It’s a ten part test, administered by a certified trainer, that demonstrates your dog is well behaved and can handle the type of environments we visit. Even if your dog isn’t quite ready yet, we have a place for you. Several of our members accompany the handler and dog teams as “spotters”, acting as a second set of eyes to ensure the safety and comfort of each visit.

All our members are asked to complete a profile of their preferences, so we can match handlers and their dogs with the appropriate venue. Some prefer visiting children, others are more comfortable with adults. Some are available mornings, others at night or weekends. We also have an ongoing orientation program, to ensure that new members go into the field with an understanding of what to expect and how to act in a variety of conditions.

Just as we strive for safety on every visit, we also place a very

high value on the welfare of our dogs. We recognize that our dogs aren’t the ones who volunteered, so it’s our responsibility to protect and speak for them so they can trust us to support them. In a healthy partnership, both members of the team respect each other.

In Falmouth, we’ve established a wonderful relationship with all four elementary schools, providing students with the opportunity to interact with our dogs in ways that are most comfortable for them. Some of the visits are one on one, others are with small groups or even the whole classroom. The children, the counselors and the teachers now look forward to what they call “dog days” with tremendous anticipation. As handlers, we leave each visit thankful for being allowed to participate and bear witness to the beauty of the experience. One of the schools holds an annual fundraiser for a charity chosen by the students, and we were deeply honored to be selected this year.

In addition to sending out Comfort Dog Teams, we also raise money for charities on Cape Cod at the various community events we attend with our dogs. All money raised goes directly to the stated charity, and we have supported organizations such as the Family Pantry of Cape Cod, Cape Kid Meals and The Sampson Fund.

Teaming with your dog leads you to work together as extensions of each other. If you thought you couldn’t love your dog any more, the magic of sharing them with someone in need is profoundly moving, and the bond between you grows even stronger.

If you or someone you know may have a passion for this work and has a dog that can participate, learn more by visiting our website at [www.heartsandpawscomfortdogs.com](http://www.heartsandpawscomfortdogs.com) and contact

**Editorial—Stand Up to Chirping**

-Ed Daniels, EDOA Director, Public Relations

Ah, Spring. Not only is the natural world responding, but the social media world as well. As birds chirp and call to prospective mates and ward off those to whom they object, Tweetsters and Facebookers call out to the metaverse looking for birds of a feather to support their position and complain about dogs.

We in the dog-verse have been out walking the deserted trails and roads and beaches all year long. Others, spurred on by the intermittent nice weather that is April, are seeking now those trails to enjoy nature’s rebirth. And so, paths cross. And so, the squaking about dogs and owners begin anew.

Still number one complaint is number two. We are all aware of the problem. To help address

it EDOA supported a change in town bylaws a few years ago to stiffen fines for not picking up after your dog. But like speeding in one’s car, some do not comply with rules when they think they can get away with it. Recent grousing was heard about the poop bags which sometimes appear along trails as dog owners pick up but fail to complete the process. Excuses abound. “I’ll pick it up on the return leg”, or “I forgot where I left it”, but I suspect it is sometimes more selfish motives. Whatever the reasons, this failure gives others a reason to complain and to demand “something needs to be done about this.”

Fact is that some people and Garfield just don’t like dogs. A few are looking for an excuse to complain that dogs should be relegated to spaces where they themselves do not go. Some people on social media exaggerate. Still, it is bothersome to read objections to sharing community resources. I know many dogs that come when recalled. Everyone I know picks up their dog’s poop. Many grab those bags left behind by others and even pick up for

them sometimes. Some of us deserve full access as good citizens. After all, cars are not banned in response to the few who speed.

On my trips to Wiley in March, I found no poop, a couple bags, and no litter. We are taking very good care of our park.

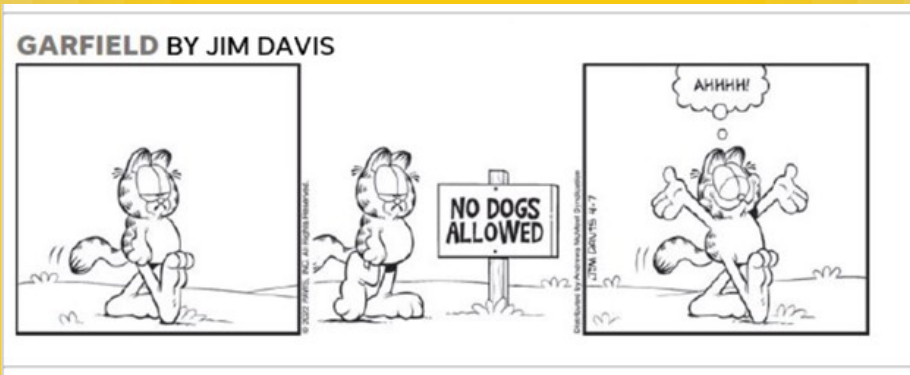
Surrounding towns’ dog owners deal with the same pressures. Brewster, Orleans, and Provincetown have all heard recent calls for further restricting of open beach dates, public facilities

(trails, recreation areas), or stiffening leash laws. The crescendo mirrors the Spring chorus year after year. We are so fortunate that we have our dog owner’s group to intercede and advocate for the rights of responsible dog owners. Eastham

has reasonable laws, dedicated public servants, and tolerant citizens. So why all the social media “chirping”?

- First, we need to do our very best to not provide validity to the complaints. Please let’s not give fuel to those who would complain. You know the drill.
- Second, we need to be proactive in seeking a solution. Encourage others to respect the culture of the dog-owning community of Eastham.
- Third, please do what you can to cover for those less considerate. Participating in the Earth Day cleanup is a good place to start.
- Finally, politely defend your fellow dog owners and stand together in response to those who would unreasonably restrict our access. We are doing a great job of keeping our “house” clean.

We deserve to share and enjoy the spaces we have used and cared for all winter long.



**Comments / Questions**  
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