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Rover Redux: K-9 Corner Opens A Week After Lincoln Dog Park

by Judy & Kate | Pet Post | 09.30.09 | [f](#) [✉](#) [★](#) [🖨](#) [📡](#) | Text Size: +

The Beatles hit "Here Comes the Sun" provided an appropriate soundtrack to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the city's first off-the-grid dog park on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Vendors, organizations, residents and dogs enjoyed a romp through K-9 Corner. The park features eye- and paw-pleasing landscape, a two-tiered water fountain with a spout for humans and a refillable bowl for dogs, a main door that leads to a foyer area and two doors into the park, and synthetic grass with a filtration/drainage system so that the dog can water it without any ill effects, and a solar grid that will provide all the lighting for the park.

"This is a prototype for future parks in the city," said Jarrod Osborne, the general manager for Solar Systems, whose company was the contractor for the lighting. "It's the first Long Beach effort and the first off-grid park in general. The system will provide the energy to light the park 24/7, dusk plus six hours."



Front view of K-9 Corners. 1st District Council Member Robert Garcia is looking into the foyer, and the solar grid can be seen at the upper right. Cory Allen, Garcia's district manager, is front left.

The park is a grassroots community effort that began before 1st District Council Member Robert Garcia ran for election. Garcia, who was then president of the North Pine Neighborhood Alliance (NPNA), and two fellow alliance members, Cynthia Ojeda (now president) and founding member Andreas Herr, noted a neglected corner at Pacific Avenue and Ninth Street during a walk.

"We said, this would make a great dog park," Garcia said.

K-9 Corner was conceived during one council administration and continued into another to come into being. Then-1st District Council Member Bonnie Lowenthal assisted NPNA in leasing the land from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. With the assistance of the Redevelopment Agency's director, Craig Beck, the NPNA worked out a design. After much hard work, the park opened on Sunday. Garcia thanked all the stakeholders in the park, including Lowenthal, Beck and David White from the RDA Parks and Rec director Phil Hester and the entire NPNA.



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Pet Post

- Judy and Kate unleash thoughts on pet care, animal rights and welfare, adoption and animal-related events the area.

Judy lives in Long Beach with their three canine family members, an active volunteer with various organizations since 1998, primarily focused on animal overpopulation and human mother and grandmother, with her family. Kate is a resident, and has a passion for animals or words. She is a member of Long Beach Animals and believes that responsibility is the key to living with two fat foundlin

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"It takes a village to put together a dog park," Lowenthal said.

The community chose the name K-9 Corner to honor the backyard garden-variety family dog and in particular the K-9 officers and their partners who take friendship to a brave, noble level. The officers were on hand to enjoy the festivities, as were organizations and offices such as Long Beach Animal Control Services (ACS), Friends of Long Beach Animals (FOLBA), the NPNA, the Long Beach Police Officers Association (LBPOA), and a number of vendors. And dogs and their owners, who were grateful to see what Garcia had referred to as a blighted area turned into a park for dogs and their families.

"I'm going to come every day," said Santos Mendez, who lives across the street.

Several Long Beach officials and volunteers visited K-9 Corner with their dogs and families.



From left: vice mayor Val Lerch, community activist Justin Rudd, LBPD Deputy Chief Robert Luna and son Asher, and city manager Pat West and Allie West.



FOLBA president Shirley Vaughan with Carol Howe, Laurie Kolodziej, and Jules Kolodziej.





At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Assembly Member Lowenthal presented Garcia with a certificate from the state. The ribbon was cut, and the wild rumpus began.



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There were games and contests. Bonnie Tyes-Brown's Chico won for his action trick of jumping into his stroller, and Araceli Valenzuela's Reggie won the fashion show, with his stylish Bow-wowhawk.

"I love it!" said Debra Ward, a 20-year property owner whose house is near the park. "I hope that it proves to be an upgrade to the entire area."



"We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. In return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made."

— Margery Facklam, award-winning children's science author

Virtually Pets: Adoptions



This is Misty, whom we met at the opening of K-9 Corner. Misty is a 13-year-old brown-and-white longhair Chihuahua whose owner had to give her up when he became too ill to care for her. Misty is a lovable sweetie who loves to be cuddled. She's been spayed and has had all her inoculations. Please come and get her at Animal Care Services, 7700 East Spring St., (562) 570-PETS.