



Dog Park Diary the social round of Goody Beagle

by Kim Pearson
Photographs by Anne Lindsay

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Publicity Contact:

Kim Pearson
Issaquah, WA 98027
phone 425 865 0409
www.primary-sources.com
info@primary-sources.com

Meet Goody Beagle.

Every day she goes to the Dog Park, where she sees her friends and finds out what's up. They chase balls and each other. They wrestle and play tug. They sniff butt. They enjoy being dogs.

An opinionated (and sometimes snotty) beagle visits her local dog park every day and records what happened -- who was there, what they did, what they said or thought, how they got along with the other dogs, what games they played, how often they peed, and especially what they smelled.

Goody Beagle brought her human with her to write it all down, and invited a photographer to come along too, to capture the dogs of the dog park in pictures. It's a doggy soap opera come to life!

If you have a dog and visit your local dog park, you will recognize the inter-canine dynamics on every page. If you don't have a dog, you still might go to the dog park just so you can experience the drama of what goes on there.

Dog Park Diary: the Social Round of Goody Beagle will make you laugh -- and you'll never smell things in the same way again.

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Kim Pearson is an author, ghostwriter, teacher, and the owner of Primary Sources, a writing service that helps others communicate their stories, histories and ideas. In addition to *Dog Park Diary*, she is the author of non-fiction books *Making*

History: How to remember, record, interpret and share the events of your life and *You Can Be an Author, Even if You're Not a Writer*, and fiction *Eating Mythos Soup* and *Common Disguises*. She has also ghostwritten more than thirty non-fiction books and memoirs. Kim lives near Seattle, Washington, with her cat Morgan and her opinionated dog, Goody Beagle. More about Kim and the services of Primary Sources can be found on www.primary-sources.com.

Anne Lindsay is an award-winning photographer who creates images on location and in her studio nestled on the banks of a lake. In addition to *Dog Park Diary*, she photo-illustrated *Before It Wiggles Away* by children's author Janet Wong. Anne lives near Seattle, Washington with her husband Frank, her daughter Fiona, and their dog Alice B. Spaniel. More about Anne and her services can be found on www.annelindsayphotography.com.



Monday

Alice B. Spaniel was waiting for me outside the gate today. Her human is a friend of my human. My human writes books and her human takes pictures. The reason they are friends is they both like dogs.

Alice wanted to show off her new pink leash. When Alice was a puppy, her human put pictures of Alice on a calendar. Ever since then Alice thinks she is something special.

My leash is plain brown leather. I've never had my picture on a calendar either.

But now I have my own book!

So there, Alice.



Alice and I went inside the gate, where Barkley Lab-Spaniel and Twister Greyhound were waiting to do sniff-butt.

Barkley found out that Alice is no threat to him, so he sniffed and left. But Twister doesn't like Alice much. That's because Twister is a fashion-hound herself and thinks Alice is trying to show her up. Today Twister was wearing her red cowgirl outfit.

It's a little over the top, in my opinion.



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While Twister and Barkley sniffed Alice's butt, I met up with my friend Pennylane Beagle. Even though Pennylane is from my own Clan, I still had to do sniff-butt so I would know how she was feeling today. I wouldn't want to play with her if she was in a bad mood.

Sniff-butt is the first lesson in manners for any dog. It's sort of like humans saying, "How are you?" But a lot more.

Sniff-butt lets you know who is a friend and who is an enemy, and who is feeling happy and who is feeling scared and who you should leave alone for now.

I think humans should do sniff-butt too. Maybe then they wouldn't fight so often.

They would look pretty funny, though.



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Across the park, Charlie Puggle sniff-butted Kato Basenji. Charlie isn't grown up yet and hasn't learned how to interpret what he smells, so he thought Kato would play with him. But Kato is too grown up and important to play with a pup like Charlie.

The Puggle Clan is new. They are half Beagle, so I know they are at least half cool. After all, half a Beagle is better than no Beagle at all.

But their Pug half gives them a squashed-in nose. Maybe that's the reason Charlie has so much trouble with his smelling ability.

Ah, youth, so much enthusiasm! Charlie gets excited over watching the grass grow. But he will grow up eventually.



I only like puppies when they grow up to be dogs.