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GREENE COUNTY
PARK DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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July 15, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY GOES TO THE DOGS AT 3RD ANNUAL DOGGIE DASH 'N SPLASH FEST SET FOR AUGUST 23

XENIA, OH – The 3rd annual **Doggie Dash 'N Splash Fest** is returning to Greene County on Saturday, August 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds Recreation Center, Mullins Memorial Pool and Scout Burnell-Garbrecht Dog Park located at 210 Fairground Road in Xenia. This day-long festival pays tribute to our dedicated and loveable four-legged friends featuring activities, close to 70 pet-related exhibitors and services, pet product samples, food for humans and canines, land and water games, canine demonstrations, open swimming for dogs only, a silent auction, goody bags while supplies last, a pet psychic (or two), pet micro-chipping, and much more for the whole family.

For the second year in a row, royalty will take center stage at 11 a.m. at the event with the crowning of the 2008 Doggie Dash 'N Splash Fest Canine King and Queen. 2007's King Sam, a German Shepherd, and Queen K.T. Didit, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, will be on hand to assist with the ceremonies.

Dog owners are invited and encouraged to submit a photo of their dog(s) for the contest. All entries will be posted online at www.dashsplash.com as they are submitted and the public can then vote for their favorites. Entries are \$5 per dog and votes are \$0.25 each. **The deadline for all photo submissions for the King & Queen contest is August 18, 2008.** The top 5 female dogs and the top 5 male dogs will be notified on August 21 that they are part of the Royal Court and will be asked to be present for the crowning of the top male and top female dog at 11 a.m. on the day of the event. Be sure to visit

www.dashsplash.com for all contest rules and deadlines, as well as to vote for your favorite dogs!

The **Southern Ohio Flying K9s** will also make a return visit with a thrilling exhibition that you won't want to miss. This group has close to 50 members who participate in monthly training sessions, weekly playdates and four competitions per year. The Southern Ohio Flying K9s are the only disc dog club in Ohio. They sponsor FlyingK9s Herd Dog Rescue (and dog rescue in general), promote positive dog training, responsible dog ownership, host great competitions, offer training from world champions, and their main goal is that you and your dog have fun above all.

A new addition in 2008 is the **Buckeye Search and Rescue Dogs**. Buckeye Search and Rescue Dogs is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation of dedicated canines and their handlers. Their mission is to help local, state and federal emergency services agencies locate missing people. This is achieved by the use of highly-trained scenting dogs who are able to detect and discriminate the distinctive scent signatures every person leaves behind. They will be featured several times throughout the day doing demonstrations with their canines.

Gem City Dog Obedience Club (GCDOC) will also be featured at the event allowing the public to work with their dogs to try out a special agility course set up in the dog park. Gem City Dog Obedience Club was established in 1967 by a group of individuals with previously acquired skills in dog training. Their goals for the club were:

- to train individuals to train their own dogs
- to promote sound and responsible dog ownership
- to make better citizens of our dogs in our communities

Continuing and broadening those initial goals, GCDOC has now reached a membership of over 200 and is considered one of the best training clubs in the region.

Other activities and contests throughout the day include:

- The **Greene County Dailies** Fetch Contest
- Canine Swimsuit Competition
- Canine Costume Contest
- Dog/Owner Look-a-Like Contest
- Best Kisser Contest
- Longest Jump Contest (small dogs 35 pounds and under; large dogs 36 pounds and over)

- The Mutt Strutt – Parade of Adoptable Dogs
- Doggie Talent Contest

All well mannered dogs are welcome to attend Doggie Dash 'N Splash Fest with their owners; retractable leashes are prohibited. Admission is free to the public, however, a \$5.00 parking donation will be suggested at the gate. All proceeds from this festival will benefit the Scout Burnell-Garbrecht Dog Park. This event is being sponsored by WHIO-TV 7, MIX 107.7 FM, Nutro, IAMS, PetSmart, NewPage Corp., River Valley Credit Union, Jack's Aquarium & Pets, Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home & Pet Crematory, Banfield – The Pet Hospital, Pet Butler, Propac Pet Food, and Frosty Paws. For more information on the King and Queen contest or the Doggie Dash 'N Splash Fest, please call Greene County Parks at 927-562-7440 or visit the event web site at www.dashsplash.com.

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