



MEDIA RELEASE

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Third Annual DogFest Promises Fun for the Whole Family

DogFest 2016: Dogs for Clean Water
Sunday, May 15, 2016
City Park, Morro Bay
10am – 1pm

DogFest 2016: Dogs for Clean Water invites people to bring their families—dogs included—for a day of fun and learning in Morro Bay's City Park. Attendees can play dog-themed games (including a quiz and a fake dog poo pickup race), watch demonstrations, visit vendor booths, and learn how they can help keep water clean in local creeks and the Morro Bay estuary just by picking up after their dogs. People who want to share their dog's cutest costume or coolest trick can enter the Morro Bay Dog Show. Prizes will be given for Best Trick, Best Dressed, and Best Dog and Owner Look-Alike. Interested dog owners can sign up when they arrive, or send their name and their dog's name to staff@mbnep.org to reserve a spot. Local vendors will showcase dog-related items and services, and light snacks will be available (donations accepted). Demonstration presenters include: Officer Pipan and Xello of Morro Bay's K9 unit, Santa Lucia Open Dog Obedience Group (SLODOG), Good Dogma Obedience Training, and Dog Works. All dogs in attendance must be on leash and well-behaved.

Dogfest 2016: Dogs for Clean Water will be held **Sunday, May 15, 2016** from 10 am to 1 pm at **City Park in Morro Bay** (on the corner of Morro Bay Blvd. and Harbor St. in Morro Bay).

DogFest promotes the popular Mutts for the Bay Mutt Mitts program that the Morro Bay National Estuary Program has managed since 2005. Dedicated program volunteers and staff from the City of Morro Bay and the Estuary Program are organizing **DogFest** to raise awareness about the importance of picking up pet waste. This simple action helps keep bacteria out of local creeks and the bay. Bacterial contamination from dog waste harms water quality and can cause illness. Thanks to the help of many committed

volunteers, generous business sponsors, and private donors, the Mutts for the Bay Mutt Mitts Program provides free disposable, degradable bags for dog waste pickup at 27 dispensers that are strategically located at parks throughout Morro Bay. In 2015, dog owners used over 250,000 bags from these dispensers, keeping thousands of pounds of dog waste out of our waters.

Dogfest 2016: Dogs for Clean Water is proudly put on by the Mutts for the Bay Mutt Mitts program, which is managed by the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and the City of Morro Bay. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program brings together citizens, local governments, other nonprofits, agencies, and landowners to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary. The Estuary Program has been conducting monitoring and research, restoring natural habitats, and educating residents and visitors on how to keep Morro Bay clean and healthy since 1995.

Please contact Rachel Pass, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, at rpass@mbnep.org or 805-772-3834 with any questions.