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## **SPOKANIMAL DOG PARK TO CLOSE FOR THREE DAYS**

County Weed Control Board is Requiring Noxious Weeds be Removed

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The Spokane County Weed Control Board has issued an enforcement letter for the SpokAnimal Dog Park and surrounding area indicating that the Hounds tongue weed whose burrs have caused so much trouble when they get stuck in dogs' coats, along with a variety of other weeds classified as noxious need to be abated.

The weeds need to be handled immediately as many are already flowering and will go to seed.

Several means of abatement have been considered and it has been determined that spraying the area is the best solution. Spraying can only be done under certain weather conditions – no wind, no rain, and temperatures within a certain range. The area will need to be closed to the public during application and for at least one full day after. The spray contractor has indicated the area will be safe to enter as soon as the spray dries.

### **How and When Will This Take Place?**

The current plan, pending changes in the weather, is to spray the area on Wednesday, June 22. The park will be locked down at the end of the day on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> with signage informing the public what is taking place. The spray contractor will start at dawn on Wednesday and SpokAnimal Executive Director, Gail Mackie says they plan to wait 48 hours, or **twice** the necessary amount of time required to reopen to make sure all of the spray has dried.

## **About Hounds tongue**

Common name: Hounds tongue  
Other common name: Gypsy flower  
Plant family: Boraginaceae  
Native to: Eurasia



## **Why is it considered noxious?**

Hounds tongue is a very strong competitor of desirable forage. Hounds tongue is poisonous; it contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that stop the reproduction of liver cells. Sheep are less susceptible than cattle or horses. Horses are especially at risk when confined to areas with Hounds tongue. It can also cause dermatitis in humans.

## **How can it be identified?**

General Description: Hounds tongue is a biennial or short-lived perennial that grows 1-4 ft tall. The taproot is thick, woody, black and branching. The green plants of Hounds tongue have a disagreeable odor.

## **How does it reproduce?**

Hounds tongue reproduces by seed and is self pollinating. Seed production varies from about 314-674 seeds per plant. Seeds remaining on the soil surface can remain viable up to two years.

## **Where does it grow?**

Hounds tongue is found on roadsides, meadows and disturbed places. It is also shade tolerant and thrives in wetter grasslands.

## **How can it be controlled?**

- Cultural: Cultivation of young rosettes in the autumn or early spring gives effective control. Reseed problem areas with fast growing grasses. Do not overgraze.
- Herbicide: Refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook, or contact the Spokane County Weed Control Board.
- Mechanical: Mow flowering stems close to ground to reduce seed set. Clipping during the second year flowering can greatly reduce seed production.

- Biological: *Mogulones cruciger* (approved and released in Canada). Another, *Longitarsus quadriguttatus*, has good results but may have an effect on native North American Boraginaceae species

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