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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Release date: July 9, 2009**

**Contact: Craig Robinson**

**Who:** Dogs and their Owners

**What:** Voice and Sight Control Off Leash Recreation Areas for Dogs and their Owners

**When:** Sunday through Saturday, from dawn to dusk

**Where:** Rita Valentine Park and Lower Spring Creek Pond

**Description:** The Responsible Dog Ownership Group of Steamboat (RDOGS) has been working with the City of Steamboat Springs staff and Parks and Recreation Commission to extend a trial period for voice and sight control off leash recreation areas for dogs and their owners. The Commission voted unanimously to extend the trial period at Rita Valentine Park and Lower Spring Creek Pond to 7 days a week, from dawn to dusk. Each site has rules and regulations posted that dogs and their owners are required to comply with. Additionally, each site has boundary markers designating the off leash area that dogs are required to stay within.

Pet owners must attend a certification program at the Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services Office to watch a video that clearly defines voice and sight control and read and agree to the "Manners in Off Leash Areas". For more information, please call 879-4300.

All dogs in Routt County are required by law to be licensed and vaccinated for rabies and this can be done at the Steamboat Springs Animal Shelter. For more information, please call 879-0621.

The leash law remains in effect for all other areas within Steamboat Springs City Limits and will be enforced. Pet owners are required by law to remove and dispose of dog waste at all times and locations.

For more information, please contact Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services (879-4300), Animal Control Services (879-0621) or RDOGS representative Frank Cefaratti (870-3363).