

Union Square Dog Run Site Analysis

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Environmental Theory 2007
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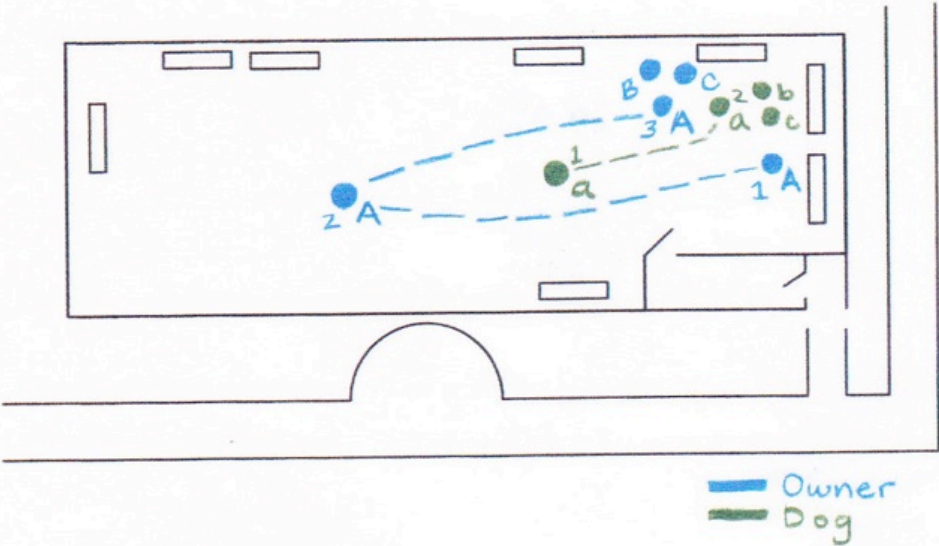
Initial Notes and Observations:

- Owners sit on benches or stand while their dogs are playing
- Owners converse with one another about: dog's names, origin, breeds, etc...
- Owners will throw balls or other toys to their own dog as well as other dogs
- Sometimes owners will not play with dogs and instead talk on cell -phones or smoke cigarettes
- People are comfortable with petting each other's dogs
- Usually the owners will stand in groupings of two to three people, not large groups
- Some owners will show off tricks with their dog to other owners
- Onlookers without dogs stand in the semi-circular area to watch dogs
- Some outsiders say that they wouldn't bring their dog here because they either don't want their dog interacting with other strange dogs or because they think it's dirty



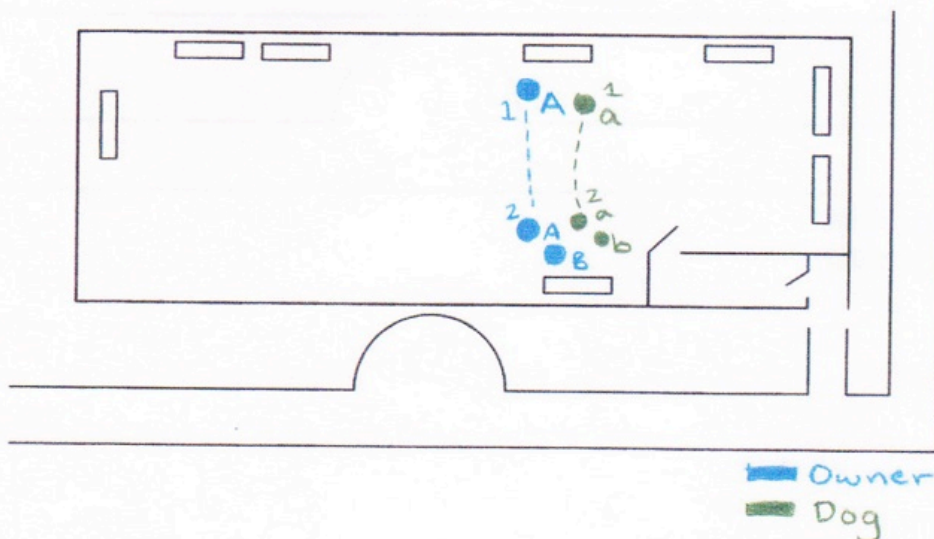
Scenario 1:

In this situation an owner (A) tossed a ball for their dog (a). The dog did not retrieve it and instead was more interested in another pair of dogs playing (b,c). The owner (A) walked across the park to pick up the ball and went back over to where his dog went. Now owners A, B, and C begin a conversation while their dogs play with each other. Here owner A followed his dog's movements and was lead to a social interaction with other owners; thus the dog facilitated a sense of community.



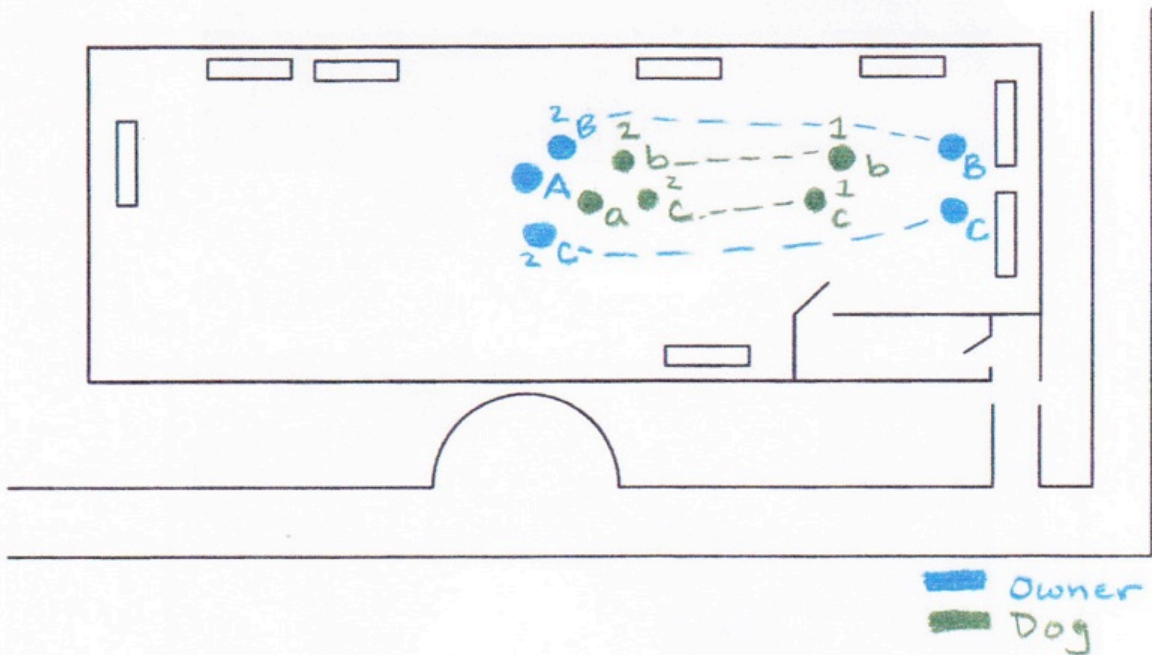
Scenario 2:

In this situation dog (a) sees an owner (B) playing with two other dogs (b,c). The dog is interested and decides to he wants to join them. The dog's owner (A) sees his dog wandering away and follows it over to owner B. The two owners talk about the breeds of their dogs as they get to know one another. After a while the dogs become active and want to play, so the owners take turns tossing toys to each other's dogs. When the dogs become active that's when the owners become more social and begin to move around the large space.



Scenario 3:

In this situation an owner (A) is standing in the center of the area with some dog treats that she is handing out to her dog (a). Two other dogs (b,c) see the treats and immediately go over to have some themselves. Their owners (B,C) respectively, who are standing off to the side of the area follow their dogs to see if the treats are okay for them to eat. The three owners then begin their own conversation together while feeding their dogs.



Scenario 4:

Here the owner (A) doesn't make any interaction with the other owners. His dog (a) runs and plays with other dogs while the owner talks on a cell phone and smokes a cigarette. It shows that sometimes even when the dog is active, it doesn't always facilitate social contact between owners.

