

# Chacko's to host dog park fundraiser today

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Can your dog limbo?

If it can, The Barkin' Beach BBQ and Car Wash at Chacko's Family Bowling Center in Wilkes-Barre is the place to be this afternoon. Proceeds from the event will go toward construction and upkeep of a proposed dog park in the city's Hollenback Park.

The Wyoming Valley Dog Owners, one of the groups hosting the event, has been raising funds for a dog park in the city, but this may be their biggest fundraiser yet, group chairman Valerie Boler said.

"It's just a nice place, a safe place," Boler said of the leash-free park.

Some of the highlights of the canine-friendly event are the limbo, where participants' pups will see just how low they can go. The musical hula hoop is similar to musical chairs, except the chairs are hula hoops.

"When the music stops, you have to get your dog in the hoop," Boler said.

Dogs standing in each hoop when the music stops can stay in the game, and hoops are taken away after each round until only one dog and one hoop remain, Boler said.

Those attending, as well as their four-legged friends, are encouraged to dress in beach attire, Boler said. There will be a contest to determine the best "beach bums."

The event is also part of the second annual Pennsylvania Week for Animals from Sept. 12 to 20, during which animal shelters, rescue groups, and humane organizations across the state host animal-related special events to celebrate and help the animals.

In addition to the car wash and grilling, the event will feature music, raffles, contests and prizes, Boler said. The Positively Pet Prancers, featuring dancing dogs, will perform at 4 p.m.

The group was inspired to complete a dog park in Wilkes-Barre after a Leadership Wilkes-Barre project group completed one last year in West Pittston.

The Wyoming Valley Dog Owners have permission to use city property for the park, but must raise all the funds for its construction. Boler said the group has had some assistance from area businesses, but are still looking for more help.

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