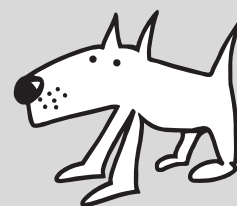


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# The Scoop

for the People of Alimagnet Caring for K9s



www.alimagnetdogpark.org

Co-sponsored by the City of Burnsville

www.ci.burnsville.mn.us

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## Alimagnet Dog Park - A Poster Child of Collaboration

*Garrett Beck (Mya)*



In the spring of 2002, after several months of research and planning, I put an ad in the City of Burnsville summer brochure asking the citizens of Burnsville to join me in the task of creating the Alimagnet Dog Park. Thanks to a group of 10 passionate, willing and energetic individuals the dog park opened on July 28th of 2002. After several months of meetings and two weekends of labor, the group had constructed a gated entry, fenced the park (in an oval - not recommended) and pur-

chased a sign for the entry way to identify the park and its rules. We did all of this for just over \$2,000. The park was an immediate success even though it only had a fence, a gate and 6 foot wide mowed trail for amenities.

However, as you know the story didn't end there. As we approach the 7 year anniversary of the park opening, none of the original pieces of the park remain. Yes, those original volunteers and parts were instrumental to getting the park up and running but since then new volunteers (some PACK board members and some who just

helped when they could) have stepped forward with their time, talents and ideas to make the park what it is today. Additions have included a new gate, sign, and fence plus lights, a shelter, shed, cleaning station, rocked trail, wood chips, bag holders, and the list goes on and on. Some of this was grant funded but much of it happened because of the efforts of the volunteers who wanted to help make the park a better place for themselves and their fellow dog owners.

To those who have helped in the past at the park on cleanup days, our annual

**continues page 3**

## PACK to Host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dog Days of Summer!



Join the PACK as we host our *Annual Dog Days of Summer event to be held on Saturday, July 25th from 11am to 3pm*, rain or shine, at the Alimagnet Dog Park in

Burnsville. This **FREE** event is fun for the whole family, and your favorite canine pals!

Along with Local Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations, events will include demonstrations from the Kensmuir Working Stock Dogs, MVHS, a fun Silent Auction, Microchip Clinic, human food, goodie bags, (while supplies last) and more!

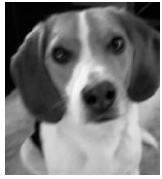
### This Years' Participants Include:

Adopt a Husky • All Dog Rescue • Allied Chiropractor Center  
Akin Hills Pet Hospital • American Boarding Kennels  
Animal Communicator/Iлга Cimbulis • Auntie Ruths  
Benda Pet Photography • Camp Bow Wow • Canine Coach  
Dog Day Getaway • Doody Calls • Evangers  
Evolution Diet Dog Food • Fetch Delivers/Pet Chef Express  
Gemini Rottweiler & Pitbull Rescue • Greyhound Pets of America  
Groomingdale's • Hearing & Service Dogs of MN • Helping Paws  
Kindred Spirits • MVHS • MN/WI Collie Rescue  
Pet Crossing Animal Hospital • Pet Supplies Plus • RAGOM  
Shure Pets • Solid Gold • VCA Cedar View Animal Hospital

Volunteer to help at DDS! Contact Lori: [notaclue13@charter.net](mailto:notaclue13@charter.net)  
Donate to this year's Silent Auction! Contact Arika: [arikahage@mac.com](mailto:arikahage@mac.com)


## Off-Leash Play

*Therese Maas (Snoopy)* As a pet owner, specifically of the canine persuasion, it is somewhat unsettling for us to feel comfortable with our pooch being "unleashed". We are all too familiar with the signs; "ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH", or "PLEASE, LEASH YOUR PET". At the Alimagnet Dog Park our goal is to have a comfortable, safe, off-leash environment for our canine companions. Once you have your dog inside the double-gate entry is a great time to let your dog roam on their own.



However, there are times when it is appropriate and acceptable for an owner to have his/her dog leashed inside the park. Thus, it is not unusual for an encounter between a leashed dog and an unleashed dog. As dog owners we should all be aware of the fact that it is not uncommon for normal, well behaved dogs to become aggressive in nature in these situations. Animal behaviorists have identified that when an off leashed dog and leashed dog have an encounter, the leashed dog feels "trapped", uncontrollably restrained, and in somewhat of an inescapable position at the end of (dare I say) a

very short leash. Not able to fend for themselves, they are under the control of their owner and unable to rely on their natural canine instincts. The other dog is in complete control, free of any restraint. The leashed dog also feels a responsibility to be protective of their owner and may sense that they are both threatened by the uncontrolled or "unleashed" dog. Likewise, the leashed dog's behavior may be misinterpreted by the unleashed dog as nervous or aggressive behavior and either dog may unnecessarily exhibit atypical behavior such as biting.

Leashes themselves can be a potential safety hazard as they are easily caught in the legs of dogs, and humans. Retractable leashes can be difficult for other dogs to see and the dog may not feel under control, or restrained, as with a traditional, shorter leash. Know your dog. If you feel that you need to take control of your dog while inside the park it is perfectly acceptable for you to leash your dog while you are in control, and as much as possible, stay away from other dogs. Some may need (or want) to leash their dogs on the walkways to and from the shelter and open play area. We all hope our dogs will play comfortably, unleashed, with other dogs inside the park. You may need to spend more time with your dog, outside of the park, if your dog is not experienced in off-leash play with other dogs, or exhibits aggressive behavior. Be respectful of not only your dog, but other dogs and humans, too. A leash that is appropriately fitted for your dog and a suitable length to maintain proper control and minimal distance between you and your dog is the best type of leash for an "off-leash" dog park. 

For more information: [www.dogpark.com](http://www.dogpark.com), or go to [www.4pawsu.com/PawPrint/leashornot.pdf](http://www.4pawsu.com/PawPrint/leashornot.pdf) to read the article "To Leash or Not to Leash" from 4 Paws University.

## Mutts

*Yoda (Lori Mestenhauser)*



So once again it is time to write about a mutt and this month will be a little different. I would like to say goodbye to a few friends that have passed in the last couple of months. First is Dakota, a German Shepherd. He leaves behind his person MJ, and his Weimaraner brother, Zane. I remember meeting Dakota when we first started to come to the park. He never played with anyone and was always fixated on a tennis ball of some kind or another.

Then we lost our very favorite Springer, Hunter. He was a little dog with A LOT of personality. From what I hear, a favorite Hunter story is when people would scratch his butt and his legs would bounce up and down. It was such a happy dance. I know he also for whatever reason kept people's feet warm. I remember him standing on my person's snowshoes, knocking her over and

stealing her hat! Everyone was laughing so hard. We miss seeing Tom and Hunter at the park. Thanks Tom for your help at Dog Days of Summer, and for all the sports memorabilia you've generously donated over the years.

Dusty, the Golden Retriever left Ken and Gunner to drag the garbage to the front by themselves. Everyone knows I have a thing for Golden Retrievers and I always liked to make Dusty feel welcome in my own special way. He was such a kind soul.



To all of you that have lost your canine pal(s) throughout this past year, our thoughts are with you. If you are looking to add another pal to our growing group of friends, remember to check

your area shelters. There are so many animals hoping to find their forever homes. They could also use help with items and donations, too.

Thanks to Arika for printing this newsletter for the last couple of years.

- Yoda and Lori 

## What a Ride! *Arika Hage (Julia)*




My Dear Parkgoers, Roughly seven or so years ago I found myself walking through the gates of the Alimagnet Dog Park and had no idea of what to expect. Throughout the years, I've been blessed with the honor to meet many human and canine pals. I have been able to experience new kinds of joy I never knew existed and feel such deep sorrow I did not know was capable of one's soul. Meeting new friends and becoming woven together by the threads of stories

about their dogs, families, jobs (or lack of), weddings, divorces, babies, funerals, travels, new puppies, vet visits, doctor visits, laughter and some more intense discussions. The list goes. Each visit to the park is unique as our Minnesota seasons and towns and you never really can predict what will happen when you close that gate behind you. And you might not realize the special community you've stepped right into until you leave for the day, week, month or longer until you come back again.

I always thought I would never be one of "those people" that wouldn't

go to the park everyday - of course I would be there *my dog* and my cup of java (even Starbucks has closed and I'd like to think I might have had something to do with that...or lack of the triple grande something or other I'd get on my way to the park).

But then life happens and everything that was predictable isn't anymore. These days I don't make it to the park nearly as often as I wish. And with two small children (whom I dearly love, but they really wear me out!), a puppy and volunteer work, among other things, have kept me more busy than I ever anticipated in my life! It's time for me to step aside and give another parkgoer an opportunity to become part of the PACK and to continue on with this newsletter that originally began with a kind lady named Lynn, was then passed along to Bee, then to me, and now will go to another person with passion for the park.

I will miss being such a close part of contributing to this great place, but know there will be other ways to lend a hand and four paws. The park will always hold a special place in my heart, and my footsteps along with others, both human and canine, will continue to echo. It's been quite a journey, my friends, and it's only just begun - Best! 

## Opinion *Arika Hage (Julia)*

### Timing is Everything


Being somewhat of a dog person, I'd like to think I have a "dog sense" about me along with the standard five senses: hear, see, smell, touch and taste. I automatically tune into dogs when I'm out and about - walks, runs, car rides, etc. And as someone that possesses this extra sense, as I'm sure many of you do, too, there's a certain cliché to keep in mind, "Timing is Everything." Like me, I bet you've found yourself in a situation (at least once, twenty or fifty times) where you've played a minor or major role in helping a canine that was not your own.

My most recent use of this dog sense occurred when I was out on a long run in the freezing, pouring rain. For some reason, I looked over across the street and way up ahead. What I saw was this little, Norwegian Elkhound with fearful eyes, sprinting on the sidewalk. Running behind the dog was a bare-footed, middle-aged man and behind him was a rain-soaked, frazzled looking lady.

In an instant, the dog crossed the road several feet in front of me. I missed grabbing him as he headed


off behind trees, towards a neighborhood of houses and then back across the road to an elementary school. During this time, an Animal Control van pulled had over and the four of us, working together, were able to get the little fella safely out of harm's way after a few minutes, saying silent prayers as the dog had been within nanoseconds of being hit by a black Hummer.

After the dog was safe and we had somewhat caught our breaths, I learned his name was Winston, he was six years old and had never gotten away before. Winston's dad turned to the Animal Control officer and asked him, "How did you know to pull over?" The officer simply shrugged his shoulders and stated, "I don't know, I just did." Guess he's got the dog sense as well, which *would* be an essential element to his profession.

I feel us "dog sense" folks have a certain responsibility on our shoulders to watch and use our senses to best help canines and their humans when the situation arises. 

### Alimagnet continued

Dog Days of Summer events, special events, serving as a PACK board member, special projects or just picking up someone else's mess, on behalf of the dog park community I say thank you. If you aren't involved and have a talent or an interest in getting involved somehow, please contact me or our PACK President, Chris Otto.

Enjoy the Summer,   
- Garrett

## National Dog Adoption Tour on Route 66

by Arden Moore  
[www.examiner.com/x-4469-Pet-Training-Examiner~y2009m6d27-National-dog-adoption-tour-underway-on-Route-66](http://www.examiner.com/x-4469-Pet-Training-Examiner~y2009m6d27-National-dog-adoption-tour-underway-on-Route-66)

Historic Route 66 has gone to the dogs... and cats thanks to a national adoption tour now underway that is co-sponsored by the North Shore Animal League America and Fido Friendly magazine.

Joining forces, this national adoption organization and dog travel/lifestyle publication are in the middle of an adoption tour aptly named, "Get Your Licks on Route 66" that stretches from California to Michigan. The five-week tour official kicked off on June 6 in Los Angeles. Next stops occurred in Winslow and Flagstaff, Arizona.

At each stop, the organizers are partnering with local animal shelters to showcase some of their pets up for adoption inside the climate-controlled special van. Each stop also offers plenty of drawings and giveaways to pet-loving attendees. At the end, one lucky person with a dog adopted from the tour, will appear on the cover of Fido Friendly magazine.

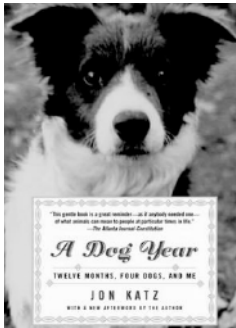


## Dog-Eared Reviews *Arika Hage*

*A Dog Year* • by Jon Katz

Random House Trade Paperbacks  
 2002 • 212 pgs • \$12.95

This book's charm comes from an intricate blend of witty anecdote and touching reflection. Katz has shared his affection for years with two low-maintenance Labs, so it is somewhat surprising that he next adopts a frenetic and demanding border collie he occasionally refers to as "Helldog." His life turned upside down; his writing schedule disrupted, he learns to center his life around a dog's needs rather than vice versa. Both breeds seem to touch something in his soul - the Lab his centered, peaceful side; the border collie his troubled side. Over the course of the year, Katz reflects on the importance of devotion to and understanding of any animal taken into the home. "Once in a great while," he muses, "the right person is fortunate enough to get the right dog, to have time to take care of it, to connect with it in a profound way."



(Mar.) Copyright 2001 • Cahners Business Information. Publishers Weekly Review

*Modern Dog Magazine*  
[moderndogmagazine.com](http://moderndogmagazine.com) • \$4.95

This quarterly magazine celebrates all the contemporary canines out there - regardless of pedigree.



Throughout its pages, you will find what's new in the dog world: canine news and reviews; must-have new products, toys and accessories; training tips and recipes; heart-warming stories; rescue tales; dog-lore; canine-inclusive home entertaining tips; breed profiles and dog-friendly travel features; dog art; fun activities for better bonding with your dog; exclusive interviews with stars and their pets; health, grooming and behavioural tips; and more! With dog psychology articles alongside indispensable advice, inspirational stories, and great photos guaranteed to make you smile, Modern Dog is an essential read for any dog lover.

A large part of Modern Dog's mission is to support the efforts of organizations that work tirelessly to assist abused, neglected or homeless dogs. For the love of dog, Modern Dog.

Official "spokesdog" for this national event is Junior, a fast-growing black Labrador retriever adopted at a shelter in Idaho by Susan Sims, publisher of Fido Friendly, and her husband, Greg. Junior is easy to spot - he's the canine wearing the striped tie and sporting a constant grin.



You can find their 36-foot mobile adoption unit travelling the length of nostalgic Route 66 in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois with a celebratory adoption wrap party in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

To follow the adventures, adoptions, view photos and video clips, visit: [www.getyourlicks.org](http://www.getyourlicks.org)

## Top Summer Tips

- **NEVER Leave Your Pet in the Car**  
 On a warm day, the inside of your car can reach 120+ degrees in a matter of minutes which could cause serious harm, or death, to your canine pal.
- **Heartworm Prevention**  
 Heartworms are parasites that grow and reproduce causing damage to your dog's heart. See your local veterinarian for heartworm preventative medication for your dog.

continues page 6

## Update - Representative Lesch Dangerous Dogs Bill

The Dangerous Dog bill (HF 2906/SF 2876) was passed by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by Gov. Pawlenty on May 15, 2008. The bill makes various changes to Minnesota statutes that regulate the ownership of dangerous dogs. The threat of banning certain breeds of dogs was scrapped early in the legislative process when Rep. Lesch's bill to ban specific breeds of dogs (a.k.a. BSL) was dropped in favor of Rep. Paymar's more reasonable answer to a number of dog attacks that received much media attention last year. The final bill provides better enforcement of the current laws and focuses on the owners of dangerous dogs, rather than arbitrarily punishing a specific breed. In fact, the law maintains the prohibition on cities and counties from passing their own breed-specific legislation.

As an added bonus, the bill authorizes cities to adopt ordinances that allow dogs to accompany their owners on patios of food and beverage establishments. Be on the lookout for

dog-friendly outdoor restaurant patios!

Some of the bill's highlights include:

- Increasing the amount of the insurance policy or surety bond owners of dangerous dogs are required to purchase from \$50,000 to \$300,000.
- Mandating Animal Control to sterilize (spay / neuter) dogs considered dangerous, at the owner's expense. Animal control has authority to immediately seize a dangerous dog if it is not sterilized within the time prescribed by statute.
- Requiring the owner of a dangerous dog to register the dog with Animal Control. In order to have registration approved, dangerous dog owners must post a visible warning sign that there is a dangerous dog on the property, pay an annual fee, have a microchip implanted in the dog, and apply annually for registration of the dangerous dog.
- Requiring owners to keep dangerous dogs enclosed on the owners'

property, or muzzled and restrained by leash, or long chain, and under the control of a responsible person.

- Requiring dangerous dogs to wear an easily identifiable tag identifying the dog as dangerous.
- Mandating Animal Control immediately seize dangerous dogs that are not properly enclosed or restrained, or whose owners do not properly register the dangerous dog.
- Defining "Provocation" as an act that an adult could reasonably expect may cause a dog to attack or bite.
- Providing increased authority to animal control (rather than a county authority), which arguably is better suited to enforce dangerous dog laws.
- Restricting dog ownership of anyone convicted of dangerous dog-related crimes.

To read the entire bill, go to <http://wdoc.house.leg.state.mn.us/leg/LS85/CEH2906.1.pdf>

## Life of a Service Dog - Helping Paws, Inc.

Most people are familiar with the concept of a guide dog for the blind and the visually impaired or a hearing



dog for the deaf and hearing impaired. A service dog is a dog that helps out a person with a physical disability that is not related to sight or hearing. Service dogs assist an individual with many tasks. These dogs go through a very structured training process to prepare them for their life as a service dog. When their

training is complete, they and their human partner complete a three week Team Training course.

*What tasks can a Helping Paws Service Dog do?*

Each dog is trained to meet the needs of an individual with a physical disability other than visual or hearing impaired. The dogs are trained to pick up dropped objects, open and close doors, assist in getting up from a chair or the floor, turn light switches on and off, get the phone, find help, and provide assistance as needed. Of great importance is the unconditional love and companionship dogs also provide.

*What breeds of dogs are used?*

In order to have great service dogs,

they start with great puppies. Helping Paws began its breeding program in 2002 to have potential service dogs available in a timely and efficient manner. Through their breeding program they are able to produce the traits they are looking for in potential Service Dog trainees.

Because of their temperament, trainability and willingness to work, Helping Paws works with purebred Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers. They use purebreds to optimize the health history of the dog so it can have a long life as a service dog.

Dogs in the breeding program live with volunteer caretaker homes. The caretaker home is responsible for the

**continues page 7**

## Doggie Popsicles

Summer's here and it's time to help your canine pal beat the heat with these yummy Doggie Popsicles! Instead of spending your dollars on Frosty Paws (or giving your pup an Edy's or Dora the Explorer popsicle) you can have fun making your own tasty, frozen treats.

### Ingredients:

- 32 oz. vanilla yogurt
- 1 mashed banana, or one large jar of baby fruit
- 2 T. peanut butter
- 2 T. honey

### Directions:

Blend all together and freeze in either 3 ounce paper cups or ice cube trays. If desired, you can also add (before they freeze) a homemade doggie biscuit for the stick! To loosen before serving, simply microwave for a few seconds or run under warm water. WOOF!

### Summer Tips continued

#### • **Provide Fresh Water**

It sounds like Dog Care 101, but we all know there's nothing more refreshing on a hot day than a nice, cool drink!

#### • **Allergic Reactions**

If your dog is bitten or stung, remove the stinger and watch the site for an allergic reaction. If a reaction occurs or there have been multiple wasp, bee or mosquito bites. Please take your canine pal to the vet.

#### • **Lawn Fertilizer**

Most lawn and garden products may be hazardous. Make sure that plants and fertilizers are not toxic or within your dogs reach.

#### • **Water Safety**

Most dogs enjoy swimming, but some cannot swim, and others may hate the water. Be conscious of your dog's preferences and skills before trying to make him swim. Also, be aware your pal might tire more quickly.

## Are My Dogs Spoiled?

*Jason Marvin (Shaggy & Scrappy)*




Are Shaggy (Golden Retriever) and Scrappy (German Shepherd/Husky) spoiled? I decided first to look up spoiled. The most relevant definition of spoiled is to impair, damage, or harm the character or nature of someone by unwise treatment. Well let's see, Scrappy begs at every meal and of course he is table height so you have to miss his mouth every time you take a bite. I think he would only be happy if he was sitting at the table with his own plate. And even then when he finished all his food by swallowing it whole, he would still want ours. And then if it doesn't sit well, we have a mess in the house the next day after work. Shaggy basically has a mind of his own. I would swear he was deaf when we are yelling at him, but he seems to hear fine when it is something he wants. I have even dislocated a finger chasing him, which in turn forced fence in our backyard. We make all our plans based on the dogs and whether they can or cannot come along. I guess at first thought the argument could be made then that we have spoiled our dogs.

But then you have to know what they have meant to us. We got Scrappy from the Minnesota Valley Humane Society the week before my wife and I got married and moved into our first house. We purchased Shaggy from a local pet shop around a year later before my first deployment. During my two deployments I am sure that they provided my wife a lot of extra work, but along with that it also

gave her a purpose to come home every night. They provided her companionship and were excited every night she got home no matter the disaster and the punishment that followed. I am sure they were just trying to keep her mind off of the deployments. Since then, we have also had a beautiful baby girl who is now 20 months old. Of course she crawls on them, plays in their food, takes away their toys and tries to pet them which could be considered more like hitting them. And they have not flinched. The worse they have ever done is to get up and walk away.

And you have to consider their loyalty and entertainment. Whether we are gone five minutes or twenty four hours, they are always jumping for joy when we walk in the door. When they are punished, they try to make it up to you in their own ways. I broke Shaggy's tooth accidentally while throwing a rock into a lake and he continued playing like nothing happened. Talk about feeling bad. Both have walked out onto trees overhanging a lake at least 10 feet from the water. Amazingly, Scrappy somehow was able to do a 180 degree turn and walk back. I had to rescue Shaggy, and to be honest, I didn't like going out there either.

So I guess when thinking about it, I believe our dogs are just treated as part of the family and not spoiled. And I believe they have earned it. We aren't always doing what is in the best interest for them, but when we allow our children to have pop, candy and fast-food, are we really impairing, damaging or harming their character or nature? 

## Cool Finds

**doginyard.com** • The Original Property Postings® has elegant, durable and complimentary signs that simply alerts all visitors that your beloved dog is close at hand. Their signs are designed to be used on gates, fences of wood or chain link, as well as brick walls. Visit them on Facebook at The Original Property Postings. \$16.95.



**laurahallen.com** • Laura has always been interested in layers and pushing two-dimensional art beyond its limits. Like peeling back the layers of an onion, her paintings reveal a three-dimensional experience. Her art is representative of life in and of itself; and that in the development and presentation, there is growth. Contact for pricing.



*Pictured is actual art up for bid at the Dog Days Silent Auction!*

**wagn4u.com** • The Gypsy's Backpack™ is great for hiking, dog training, walking, light errands and emergency situations. Its super comfortable for your canine pal and is bright with a reflective border. \$49.95.



**karma-charms.com** • ID tags for all dogs that guaranteed legible for life! Twice as thick as normal tags. These stunning tags are unique, fun, practical and make a wonderful stylish addition to your dog's attire. Pictured is a handmade Sterling Silver tag with two 3mm cabochon gemstones. \$90.



## Fun on 4 Paws Local Events

**7th Annual Dog Days of Summer**  
**Saturday, July 26, 2009 from 11am to 3pm**  
**Alimagnet Dog Park, Burnsville**

Join PACK as we host our annual Dog Days of Summer event. Vendors, demonstrations, and a Silent Auction to celebrate our canine pals and to help raise funds for park improvements. [www.alimagnetdogpark.org](http://www.alimagnetdogpark.org).

**Tail Waggin' Dinner**  
**Saturday, September 12, 2009**

**Marriott Minneapolis Southwest, Minnetonka**

This benefit for Helping Paws, Inc. includes an evening with a puppy chow reception, live music, cash bar and a silent auction followed by a Big Dog's plated dinner and a LIVE auction. Proceeds will support the Helping Paws' mission of furthering the independence of individuals with physical disabilities through the use of service dogs. Contact Pam at 952.988.9359, ext. 12 or [panderson@helpingpaws.org](mailto:panderson@helpingpaws.org) • [www.helpingpaws.org](http://www.helpingpaws.org)



**Whisker Whirl: A Party for People and Pups**  
**Saturday, September 26, 2009**

**Humane Society, Golden Valley**

Where else can you bring your dog to a party?! Join the Humane Society as they celebrate the human-animal bond and to raise funds for those that are less fortunate than the animals with whom you share your homes. Enjoy the big-tent ambiance, site-down dinner, silent and live auctions, and fund-a-need Contact Bobbi at 763.432.4842 or [bmorris@animalhumanesociety.org](mailto:bmorris@animalhumanesociety.org). [www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org)

### Service continued

whelping and caring of the puppies until they are eight weeks of age. Help and support for this is provided by Helping Paws staff.

The Breeding Program includes:

- Selection or purchase of breeding females
- Selection of sires for the litters
- Veterinary care of the dam
- Pre-whelping & veterinary care for the first eight weeks of the new litter
- Whelping and care of the litter
- Selection of puppies for the Service Dog program

*How does a puppy become a Helping Paws Service Dog?*

A puppy selected for the program will spend approximately 2 years with a foster home trainer experiencing a variety of social environments and learning the skills it will need to be a service dog. As part of the training, it will attend formal classes once a week and be involved in daily training activities. A "puppy passport" directs the foster home trainer to appropriate public training venues based on the dog's age and skill level. During the training process,

each dog is evaluated on skill level, manners and public behavior.

*Who is eligible to apply for a Helping Paws service dog?*

Any adult with a physical disability (other than loss of hearing or vision impairments) who wants to increase their independence through the use of a service dog is welcome to apply. The geographic location for placement of Helping Paws service dogs is limited to Minnesota and western Wisconsin. For more information: [www.helpingpaws.org](http://www.helpingpaws.org)



PACK  
 City of Burnsville  
 100 Civic Center Parkway  
 Burnsville, MN 55337

**About PACK**

Our mission is to support the ongoing care and success of the Alimagnet Dog Park in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Our commitment includes:

1. Improving the park through fund-raising and volunteer efforts,
2. Educating the community of park users through newsletter publications, on-site events, and
3. Protect and enhance the land through environmental stewardship goals and activities.

We are advocates for additional off-leash canine companion parks in Dakota County. We believe these parks improve the quality of life for our citizens, their canines, and their communities.

**PACK Directory**

*Board of Directors:*

Chris Otto.....President  
 Cassie Esters.....Vice President  
 Jason Marvin.....Secretary  
 Garrett Beck.....Treasurer

*Board Members:*

Becky Gardner	Autumn Grimm
Arika Hage	Lori Mestenhauer
Therese Maas	Amanda Wheeler

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Edited and designed by Arika Hage (arikahage@mac.com). All other writers are credited in their respective articles.

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The opinions expressed herin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the PACK Board, or the City of Burnsville.