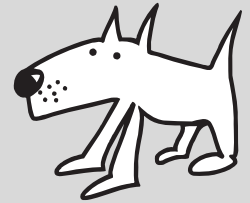


**Recognized
as a Top Dog
Park in the
NATION
in 2005***

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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A Farewell To Curtis & Eva

I first met Curtis and Eva, and Chopper, and Charlie, and Hank, wow, almost five years ago at the park! I had a four month old puppy with me, and had no idea what to do at a dog park! These two were seasoned veterans and moved about the park, the people, and all the dogs with ease. Curtis with his great enthusiasm and little Eva with her ginormous heart. I instantly knew I had met two very special people.

Curtis and Eva were two of

the very first "people" names

Arika Hage (Wrigley)

I knew - not just their dogs. Ever since I can remember, they have been part of the park. They are there for



pleasure - to enjoy people and to spend time with their canine pals. They are behind

the scenes, giving countless hours of volunteer time to the Alimagnet Dog Park along with helping to support the possibility of other dog parks in the community. They attend council meetings, go on site visits and share their knowledge of our special park with others in the hopes that more communities like ours might be formed.

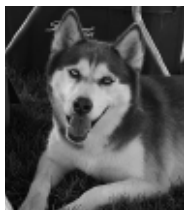
Throughout the years, Curtis and Eva have astounded me

continues on page 3....



Welcome Cassie!

Cassie Mason (Bella)



For those of you who do not know me, my name is Cassandra (Cassie) Mason, and my dog is Bella, a red and white Siberian Husky. I have been a park user for almost three years, and been coming almost daily for over a year now. It is an honor that I have been elected to be president for the Alimagnet Dog Park for the year of 2007. It is a role that I do not take lightly, and plan to do my best to make everyone happy that I was chosen for this position.

Last year was an amazing year for

the park, thanks in large part to our anonymous donor, as well as to our wonderful volunteer board, and all of the dog park users. We had lights installed around the parameter of the trail, as well as heaters and electricity to allow for a heated water bowl for the dogs, which they are all putting to good use right now. Most recently, we had new trail material put down to replace the wood chips, which should be great this spring when everything starts to melt and we are all not walking in huge mud puddles!

This year, I do have some ideas that have already been brought to me that will continue to improve our park, and that I intend to do my best to put into motion soon. This

includes an idea to combat the areas of the trail that flood whenever it rains, or when the snow melts. Also, since Dog Days is such a great fundraiser for our park, we are going to look into getting credit card capability for the silent auction, as well as for buying other dog park items. I know there were quite a few individuals that would've liked to continue to bid on items, but were unable to since they did not have the available cash to do so at the time.

I encourage all of our park users to please let me, or any other board member, know of any ideas that you have for the park. We are all more than happy to discuss these things with you! In addition, we would also like to know of any problems/issues

continues on page 3....

*Ranked #3 in the nation according to a contest held in Dog Fancy magazine, where Alimagnet Dog Park was awarded a \$10,000 prize!

Winter & Cupola



Winter has finally arrived, and we knew it would, but if you are like me, then you probably held onto a tiny bit of hope that this could be the year of no winter. Nevertheless, the single digits are here and if you look closely the next time you are at the park, I bet you can see a smile on the faces of our Siberian Huskies, Chow Chows, Keeshonds, Samoyeds, German Shepherds, and the like. If nothing else, the dog park is always a great way to avoid "cabin fever", so get out and enjoy our Minnesota winter!

Garrett Beck, Burnsville Recreation Supervisor (Mya)

Our mild fall allowed the dog park community to continue to add little improvements here and there. The most recent additions were the final touches on the new Dresser trap trail and a cupola for the PACK weather vane. The trail upgrade was a little soft right after the installation, but we anticipate that as it gets used and it has a chance to settle, it should firm up quite nicely. This new surface should dramatically improve the trail conditions during our spring thaw as well (assuming we get more snow this winter).

The cupola was built and installed by Ben Dickens as part of his Eagle boy scout volunteer project. Thanks to Ben, it really is a nice addition to the

park. Way to go!

In closing I will remind our dog park community that your opinions and ideas are valued so if you have anything you would like to share, please contact me or one of our board members. In addition, if you have any special talents that could be tapped into to improve the park, we would love to hear about those, too. Have a great winter!



See you at the park,
- Garrett Beck

PACK Treasurer &
City of Burnsville Recreation Supervisor

Iditarod - The Last Great Race on Earth • March 3rd

www.iditarod.com



You can't compare it to any other competitive event in the world! A race over 1150 miles of the roughest, most beautiful terrain Mother Nature has to offer. She throws jagged mountain ranges, frozen river, dense forest, desolate tundra and miles of windswept coast at the mushers and their dog teams. Add to that temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, the hazards of overflow, long hours of darkness and treacherous climbs and side hills, and you have the Iditarod. A race extraordi-

naire, a race only possible in Alaska.

From Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12 to 16 dogs and their musher cover over 1150 miles in 10 to 17 days.

In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life saving highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum had to be brought in; again by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving dogs.

The race route is alternated every other year, one year going north through Cripple, Ruby and Galena, the next year south through Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik.

There are names which are automatically associated with the race — Joe Redington, Sr., co-

founder of the classic and affectionately know as "Father of the Iditarod." Rick Swenson from Two River, Alaska, the only five time winner, the only musher to have entered 20 Iditarod races and never finished out of the top ten. Dick Mackey from Nenana who beat Swenson by one second in 1978 to achieve the impossible photo finish after two weeks on the trail. Norman Vaughan who at the age of 88 has finished the race four times and led an expedi-



Susan Butcher & lead dog, "Granite" at finish.

tion to Antarctica in the winter of 93-94. Four time winner, Susan Butcher, was the first woman to ever place in the top 10. And of course, Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the Iditarod in 1985.

Each musher, whether in the top ten, or winner of the Red Lantern (last place) has accomplished a feat few
continues on page 5....


Farewell Continued...

with their kindness. Most of you may remember seeing Bella for the first time and thinking, "Yippee, Curtis & Eva got a puppy!" When in fact, they had a rescued an elderly girl and gave her the most amazing care, love, passion and devotion during her last years. This is also how they have served as members of the dog board and "behind the scenes". Curtis has participated on the board as President and Vice President, and

we finally, "officially" recruited Eva to the board. (Although she has been a tremendous help, especially at Dog Days keeping track of everything!)

Curtis helped to build the shelter you see standing today and repaired our old fence countless times! Eva always has a smile on her face and a good book, or two, or three, to recommend.

Above all, I personally have valued

Curtis and Eva's comradity and genuine friendship throughout the years. I speak for all of us ~ you will be missed on the board, your spirit is present in all of us, and we will see you at the park! We truly THANK YOU for all you have done and will continue to do - Cheers! 

Mutts

Yoda (Lori Mestenhauer)



It is now time to meet Maxwell. He is best known for his big head and whip of a tail. If you have ever been hit with that tail you know that Maxwell is in the park. He is a very lucky

boy. He had a very rough start in life. Cheryl and Chris adopted him from Animal Ark. They were actually looking for a boxer but saw this very large little puppy and it was love at first site for all of them.

His puppy history is very sad, someone put him in a dumpster. He had gone through the garbage truck compactor and was found running at the dump in Hastings. Someone grabbed him and took him to Animal Ark. He had already been adopted out once and brought back. As soon as Chris and Cheryl found out about the beginning of his life that was it. Maxwell was to be a part of the family. He was just so hyper when he was little. Wild and shy. Now he is just wild.

When Maxwell first came to the park he was afraid of me. He was a puppy, I growled, and he was

scared. I think he could feel the force. He lives with a cat named ANIKAN, my name is YODA, he obviously felt the force in me. We get along now and are friends. Sometimes I do actually play a little bite with him. He mostly likes picking on the little white fluffy dogs. The picture of him is from a time out. He gets a little rough sometimes and gets into trouble.




Most people think he is an American Bulldog mix. His favorite friends are Bella, Luca, and me. I guess he likes the winter breeds. That is about all I have to say on Maxwell, just another shelter dog that we have all come to love and watch play. He could have had such an awful life and here he is making us all smile.

Maxwell will make his photo debut in the Puppy page-a-day calender. He was chosen to be in a few months ago. His special day is August 25th, 2007.

Can you believe it, from a dumpster to a calender. What a lucky dog!

'til next time. 

Welcome Continued...


you have at the park - that's what we are here for. All of our email links can be found on the Alimagnet website, and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Here's to another fantastic, and safe year at the dog park! 

Listen Up

Animal Wise Radio!

Join Mike Fry, Beth Nelson, and a great lineup of expert contributors for a fun, engaging discus-



sion of issues that effect people and animals. Whether you have a pet or are interested in the impact people have on wildlife and the environment, Animal Wise Radio is a place for you to cry, laugh and to be entertained as we celebrate the many profound connections people have with the other animal species that share our world. 

Live Broadcast Sundays
Noon - 2 PM on
KDWA, AM 1460

Canine Pal Winter Protection

Below are some suggestions taken from the Humane Society of the United States website relating to keeping our pets safe during these cold winter days!

- **Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops.** Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.
- **No matter what the temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life.** A dog is happiest and healthiest when kept indoors. If your dog is an outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft-free dog-

house that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his/her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

- **Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter** because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make certain the water is fresh and unfrozen. Use plastic



food and water bowls rather than metal; when the temperature is low, your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal.

- **Warm engines in parked cars attract cats and small wildlife, who may crawl up under the hood.** To avoid injuring any hidden animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them away before starting your engine.

- **The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet.** Wipe the feet with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his/her mouth.

- **Antifreeze is a deadly poison.** Wipe up spills and store out of reach. Or, use antifreeze-coolant made with propylene glycol; if swallowed in small amounts, it will not hurt pets, wildlife, or your family.

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to **keep your dog inside with you and your family.** The happiest dogs are those who are taken out frequently for walks and exercise but kept inside the rest of the time. Dogs are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family. 🐾

hsus.org

Dog-Eared Books in Review



Nicole Monio (Lady)

Watchers
Author
Dean Koontz

Dean Koontz fans find a variety of animals in his stories, but only one (so far) features an animal as its main character. "Watchers" is about the two sides of genetic engineering – the positive and the negative. On the positive side, you have Einstein, a golden retriever bred for friendship with an enhanced intelligence that allows him to communicate with humans. On the negative side, there is The Outsider, bred to kill and intelligent enough to recognize and suffer for its own inhumanity.

The Outsider is jealous of Einstein's appeal and acceptance, and seeks to destroy him. So when Einstein escapes from the lab that created them, The Outsider soon follows. As Einstein brings hope and joy to everyone he meets, The Outsider follows with death and destruction.



"Watchers" is all the more enjoyable because Koontz feeds into every animal lover's tendency of anthropomorphism – assigning human qualities and feelings to animals when we can only guess what truly lies beneath their expressions, actions, and vocalizations. Einstein is an exceptional canine, but his golden personality remains intact...with a few surprises.

He's enthusiastic, eager to please, and playful, with a child's sense of innocence and wonder, a sarcastic sense of humor, and the tantalizing ability to finally bridge the gap between animals and mankind – even if he still can't tell us why dogs eat grass. He ushers in a brand new world where everyone benefits from the success of his creation, us most of all.

"Watchers" has something for everyone: action, romance, suspense, the fight between good and evil...and best of all, it's about a dog! 🐾

National News

Lost...and Found?




Most of the pets that go missing every year never come home. But a new "Amber Alert" system for animals

may change those odds. With helpmefindmypet.com, you create a website with a picture of your cat or dog and pertinent information like his tag number and your phone number. Then if he gets lost, you inform the service. It creates a missing-pet poster using Fido's profile and immediately sends a bulletin to a network of pet shelters, groomers, vets, and stores within a 50-mile radius of where the animal was last seen. Each member of the network is encouraged to post at least five flyers with photo and a hotline number.

Any report of a lost pet sighting or

related information is immediately emailed and/or phoned to the member by the helpmefindMYPET emergency call center. When the pet is recovered helpmefindMYPET is contacted via the emergency hotline or internet and an urgent message is placed in the member's mailbox and/or the member is called directly by the organization. Arrangements are then made to reunite the pet and the family.

It's easier to find a pet if a large-scale search starts right away, says Nicholas Acosta, a founder of the program. You can visit their site to sign up and create a profile for \$19 per pet. 

helpmefindmypet.com


Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

Monday, February 12, 2007
8:00pm - 11:00pm ET/PT

Tuesday, February 13, 2007
8:00pm - 11:00pm ET/PT

1st Runner Up



Alimagnet Dog Park was the 1st Runner up in this year's TC Dog Readers Choice Awards! Readers Choice went to Minnehaha. Log onto tcdog.com for a complete list of winners - CONGRATS! 



Iditarod Continued...

dare to attempt. Each has gone the distance and established a place for their team in the annals of Iditarod lore.

Mushing Terminology

Big Su - Refers to the Big Susitna River

Burled Arch - The finish line in Nome, Alaska

Gee - Command for right turn

Haw - Command for left turn

Line Out! - Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled. Used mostly while hooking dogs into team or unhooking them.

Mush! Hike! All Right! Let's Go! - Commands to start the team


Pedaling - Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner

Rigging - Collection of lines to which dogs are attached. Includes tow line, tug lines and neck lines

Swing Dog or Dogs - Dog that runs directly behind the leader. Further identified as right or left swing depending on which side of the tow line he is positioned on.

Trail! - Request for right-of-way on the trail.

Whoa! - Command used to halt the team, accompanied by heavy pressure on the brake.

Note: It should be thoroughly understood that as dogs are not driven with reins, but by spoken commands, the leader of the team must understand all that is said to him and guide the others accordingly. An intelligent leader is therefore an absolute necessity. At times it appears that there is ESP between musher and lead dog. Don't be surprised if you hear a musher have an in-depth conversation with his lead dog. 

Indulge Yourself!

Chocolate Elegance
Minnesota Valley Humane Society
Silent Auction Fundraising Event


Saturday, February 24th, 2007
Cost - \$75

Sunday, February 25th, 2007
Cost - \$35



With the New Year dawning, the south metro's collective mouth begins to salivate, and the buzz around town recalls that it is time once again for the Minnesota Valley Humane Society's premier epicurean gala, "Chocolate Elegance".

Enjoy a special menu designed specifically for the evening's motto, 'Life is short. Eat dessert first.'

A spectacular brunch completes the weekend's decadence with an adventurous menu. After this, you'll never separate your truffles from your eggs again! 

Order tickets online at mvhspets.org, or call Andrew at 952-894-5000.

Kids Corner - Dog Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the letters below: G, D, S, H, A, C, B, M, P.

B							S	
		D			B			
			D					G
	B			S		C		
				D		S		
	P			M		H		
			S				H	
		B			M			
C								M

G = German Shephard

H = Husky

B = Basset Hound

D = Dachshund

A = Akita

M = Malamute

S = Shit Tzu

C = Chihuahua

P = Pomeranian

Sudoku Answers on Page 7.

A special thanks to Lisa and Lori for creating this fun puzzle!

Wine in Review

Arika Hage (Wrigley)



Hogue
Genesis, 2003
About \$14
hoguecellars.com

This wine has become my most recent favorite! A great wine for one of those cold Minnesota winter evenings!


Hogue Genesis wines represent the culmination of a winemaking process that selects classic varietal wine grapes from some of the most



distinctive vineyard sites in Eastern Washington state. In twenty years of winemaking in Washington the Hogue Cellars winemaking team has identified which vineyards and microclimates have the best potential to produce classic varietal wines.

The 2003 Genesis Cabernet Sauvignon is what fine wines are all

about. This is a spicy wine at its core with anise, clove and coffee bean accenting its bright fresh cherry and raspberry fruit flavors. It is a rich, full-bodied, expressive wine that still shows some finesse with fine, almost powdery tannins and well-integrated oak. Tobacco and black pepper linger on the finish.

Pair this wine with grilled tri-tip steak, aged cheeses or dark chocolate. 

Cool Finds

iditarod.com

A uniquely Iditarod take on a slice of pop culture. This 100% cotton shirt is available in sizes small to XXL. Available in texas orange. \$19.95



westpawdesign.com




Zogoflex is West Paw Design's very own unique creation. A super durable, extremely pliable material that will give dog toys a longer life and supply added entertainment for your four-legged friend! Huck Large \$11.98




modernartisans.com

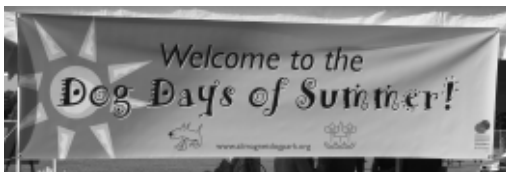


This whimsical pairing will certainly bring a smile to any dog-lover's face. Each shaker is individually handblown in Oregon using high-quality glass and hand-mixed colors. Topped with corrosion-resistant metal caps, this delicate dog-and-hydrant shaker set provides the perfect touch of functional art in any kitchen! \$62.99 

Mark Your Calendar!

The Annual *Alimagnet Dog Days of Summer Event* has been scheduled for **Saturday, July 28th, from 10am-2pm.**

Please contact Cassie at: cassandra.mason@usis.com, if you are interested in participating or being a volunteer for our Annual Dog Park celebration and fundraising event! 



Fun on 4 Paws Local Events

Tropical Beach Party

February 17 – 19, 2007

9:00am – 4:00pm

Tropical breezes right here in Minnesota? Yes! Get ready to play in our large, indoor sandbox and enjoy the warmth and humidity of the Tropics Trail during Tropical Beach Party. Bring the family for a wild get together at the Zoo.

mnzoo.com

5th Annual Twin Cities Pet Expo

February 17 & 18, 2007

Minneapolis Convention Center

twincitiespetexpo.com

Save the Date!

33rd Annual Walk for Animals

Saturday, May 5, 2007!

Golden Valley & St. Paul - 2 Locations!

animalhumanesociety.org



Thank you Park Patrons for your continued generous support to the Alimagnet Dog Park!

Sudoku Answers.

B	C	P	H	G	A	M	S	D
S	G	D	M	C	B	A	P	H
M	H	A	D	P	S	B	C	G
H	B	M	P	S	G	C	D	A
G	A	C	B	D	H	S	M	P
D	P	S	A	M	C	H	G	B
A	M	G	S	B	P	D	H	C
P	D	B	C	H	M	G	A	S
C	S	H	G	A	D	P	B	M



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:

Cassie Mason.....President
 Lori Mestenhauer.....Vice President
 Nicholas Ward.....Secretary
 Garrett Beck.....Treasurer

Board Members:

Jim Anderson Isela Dorfman
 Arika Hage Nicole Monio
 Karen Ryzer Sue Schwie
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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.