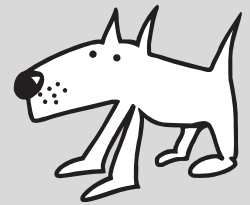


**Voted
Best
of the
Cities!***

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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Welcome Notes



A new year is upon us and that means changes in the Alimagnet Park leadership group. In December of 08, the P.A.C.K. leadership got together for their last meeting of the year and voted on the new leadership for the 2009 year.

How fast did this past year go? For me, it was very quick. It seems not that long ago that I volunteered to be on the board for the park, helping out with various tasks, attending the monthly meeting, it all seemed pretty harmless, very easy and something I could do to help out the

park I attend with my dog Maxwell all the time. Here I am now, a little under two years later, voted to be the P.A.C.K. president. This is not a position I will take lightly and I have a couple ideas on how to really help Alimagnet Park shine in the community and beyond like the jewel it is.

Our number one priority however, is to fill all the board positions. We would always like to have a full roster of people on the board so that we have a full range of ideas and thoughts from across the spectrum of people who use the dog park. As always, if you would like to volunteer your time, please

Chris Otto (Maxwell)

contact one of us on the board and we'll let you know what volunteering entails. Like I said before, it's very easy to do, and a fun way to give back to the park.

As for myself, I usually try to be at the park with my dog Maxwell around 4:30, although sometimes it does get to be later. Maxwell loves going to the park. I only have to say the words "Do you wanna..." before he's rushing to the garage door or frantically searching for his leash to bring to me.

Maxwell is my almost four year old, brindle and white colored bully breed of

Thank You Lori!

Arika Hage (Julia)

I met Lori some seven odd years ago out at the park. I had my 4 month old puppy with me and the first time I met Lori and Yoda, I thought Yoda was one the the biggest, scariest dogs I'd ever seen! Turns out Yoda just has a lot to say. Now he's 11 and Lori hasn't seemed to age a bit! Over the years both Lori and Yoda have served the park well. Lori has given countless hours volunteering and Yoda always plays a big part of our Annual Dog Days of Summer event.

In 2008, Lori served as the PACK President and helped to host one of the best dog days events ever! As

the president, Lori showed she was a go-getter when it came to getting things done for the park. Whether it was leading meetings, selling calendars, or helping to gather silent auction items, she was able to accomplish what she set out to do and have fun while doing it!

Lori, we just wanted to give you a shout out and truly thank you for serving as last year's president. We also appreciate all your time and efforts and can't imagine the park without you and Yoda. See you at the park!



Become a Board Member!

Join The PACK (People of Alimagnet Caring for K9s)! Our volunteer Board is looking for TWO new members to share in our passion for the park and our fellow canines! Share your time & talents!

Feel free to stop by our next meeting at Burnsville City Hall on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00pm, or you can email Chris at: chris.r.otto@gmail.com

*The Alimagnet Dog Park was voted Best of the Cities in Minnesota Monthly Magazine, 2007.

A Look Back at 2008

Garrett Beck (Mya)

I am not surprised when I look back at 2008 and see positive change and action at the dog park. Thanks to years of experience and a knowledgeable board of directors, PACK had its most successful Dog Days of Summer event yet.

The money raised from that event was quickly put to use with the installation of a cement slab and a shed at the park. This shed will become the home of rakes, shovels, buckets and other miscellaneous items to help keep the park clean and functioning properly.

If you were at the park in the fall, you

may have noticed some landscape activities in progress. Unfortunately the rock trail never settled the way we anticipated it would. By spreading the rock out, this should allow the trail to firm up the way we had originally intended. Prior to the snowfall, just over half the trail was completed and the feedback was very positive. We hope to complete the renovation before summer which may include some additional rock to prevent erosion and displacement.

2008 also marked some bitter sweet moments. In late 2007, we lost a dear person and original PACK board member Gordie Paulson. His

family recognized is passion for the park by supplying the bench that is now located on the east side of the water. 2008 also marked the passing of another former board member Nicole Monio. She served as our website director for a couple years before her illness forced her to resign. We truly appreciated their service to the park and they are missed.

As always, if you have an interest in being more involved in the park, please don't hesitate to contact one of the board members for more details. We have had some amazing people give of their time, talents and resources over the years and that quite honestly is what makes the park so special.

Hope you had a safe and wonderful winter season!

- Garrett 

Mutts

Yoda (Lori Mestenhauser)



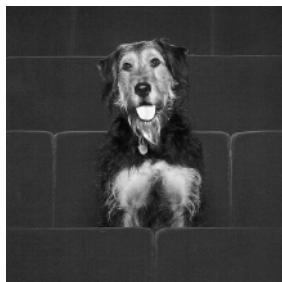
Hi,

As everyone knows I am a shelter dog. I am here to let people know that shelters are a wonderful place to find a pet. I have heard many

conversations start with the phrase "there must be something wrong with the dogs if they are at the shelter". Well let me tell you about Wyatt. He is so awesome that he is earning enough money to fence in his family.

Many of you know the Goldendoodle Orlando. He wanted a friend so his owners went to Crossroads Animal Shelter in Buffalo and found Wyatt. He is a goofy looking Airedale mix that is on his third home.

Now he will be famous in the Twin Cities. He auditioned for the part of Crab in the Shakespeare play "Two Gentlemen of Verona". He got it!



He had the best sit stay of all the dogs that were there. Plus he is just a cool looking dog. I have never noticed him being a Crab, so he must be a really good actor. Wyatt is earning enough money to put a fence in the yard. He found a great home and wants to make sure they can not run away.

Opening night was January 30th, it continued every weekend until the end of March. We are very proud of him and hope he finds more work in the acting community. I think it is pretty amazing that one of our friends from the park is going to be on stage. You just never know what

kind of awesome animal you will find at your local shelter.

If anyone wants to see the play you can get tickets at: www.guthrietheater.org. Wyatt is also in a recent issue of Mpls./St. Paul magazine.

- Yoda



7th Annual Dog Days of Summer!



Alimagnet Dog Park
Saturday, July 25th
11am to 3pm
rain or shine!

Volunteer to help at DDS!
 Contact Lori: notaclue13@charter.net


Help by donating something to this year's Silent Auction!
 Contact Arika: arikahage@mac.com

Welcome continued

some type best friend. I've been told that he is most likely American Bulldog, but really, he could be any mix of things as he is a rescue dog. His story is a sad one to begin with, but happy now that we have found each other. He was originally found as a puppy when the garbage men were emptying their truck out. You read that correctly, he was actually thrown away and made it through a garbage truck alive! I'm so happy that he found his way to me because he is super smart and very well behaved. Well, most of the time.

When at the park, he loves to chase

a ball. Unfortunately, he also gets a little possessive of the ball around other dogs, so you'll often see me chasing him away from anyone throwing the ball around. His best friends at the park are Bella and Yoda as he has grown up with them being there every day, and plays with them almost every day that they are all at the park together.

If you see us at the park, please come up and say hi. We are both very friendly and don't bite. Watch out for Maxwell's tail though, it gets wagging so hard that it can really whip you. 

Opinion

Arika Hage (Julia)

Please consider adoption/rescue, etc. before breeder




Especially with the economy the way it is, it's important for us to consider adoption or rescue, etc. when looking to add your next canine pals instead of looking to a breeder.

I have to be honest, after we lost Wrigley, (our Chessie/Black Lab) I was trying to talk my husband into getting a Labradoodle or a Chinook (a what?!? Better look it up on dogbreedinfo.com). I felt this immense "pressure" to find the "perfect" dog. I even met with some breeders and was going to hop on a plane to Maine and bring back a new puppy in the Spring of 2009! Then we were thought we could adopt (along with 500 other people) Annie the Golden who'd been shot only to find ourselves with a home visit and approval status from RAGOM.

In this search for a new canine companion, I tried to take a breath be "patient" (as well as check out petfinder, rescue websites, etc.). Then it happened! An email came from from a lady in Illinois about a

puppy listed on CraigsList (of all things) and could our rescue group (I volunteer for a breed specific group) please check it out! I called and the guy said he'd already had about 15 inquires about his girl, but would be in touch if he still needed a home for her.

About three days later, we met this big, gentle guy and he tearfully handed over his pup. He felt we were the right family for her and when my son hugged her and she gave him kisses, I teared up, too.

We don't know her history or if she'll be prone to bad hips or eyes. Guess we'll take our chances. When this guy did one of the hardest things he'll ever experience in his life, I held onto his arm and promised him, promised him, that we'd take care of her. And here she is, this little (soon to be BIG) blessing to our family. I sense Wrigley looks over us and we thank him for sending Julia. She's very sassy, so I'm sure we're in for quite a ride! *And you all were right - dogs do heal the soul.* 

Please email comments and opinions for future publications to: arikahage@mac.com

K9 Good Citizen

The American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test (CGC) is a certification program that



An AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB Program

evaluates dogs in simulated everyday situations in a relaxed, noncompetitive atmosphere. The

purpose of the test is to ensure that dogs are respected members of their communities and are trained to act mannerly in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. Dogs that pass the CGC test are deemed to be reliable family and community members and will receive a certificate from the AKC.

Any dog is eligible to take the CGC test and all dogs are welcome to be tested at AHS whether or not their pet has been through the Training School at AHS or other training programs. There is a \$10 fee to take the test for dogs not currently enrolled in AHS's Training School.

The test is offered at the Golden Valley location at 8:15pm on the first Monday of the month and at the Coon Rapids location on the third Wednesday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

The CGC certification tests your dog on the following:

- * Greet a friendly stranger.
- * Sit politely for petting.
- * Welcomes being groomed, brushed; allows paws and ears to be handled.
- * Walks as directed on a loose leash.
- * Moves politely through a crowd.
- * Sits, lies down and stays in place on command.
- * Comes when called.
- * Behaves politely around other dogs.
- * Reacts with confidence to distractions.
- * Can be left with a trusted person.

For more details about the program, please visit: www.akc.org/events/cgc/ or call (763) 489-2217.

Economy forces more people to give up pets

by Brenda Brissette Mata
The Flint Journal • January 22, 2009

A growing number of Americans are giving up their dogs and cats to animal shelters as the emotional bonds between people and pets get tested by economic ones. David Tucker, director of the Humane Society of Genesee County, said the organization keeps numbers on pets surrendered, but the reasons for the surrenders are not kept.

The stories people share when they come in to drop off an animal, however, point to the economy as an

important reason behind many pet surrenders.

"I would say approximately 30 to 40 percent of the animals dropped off are surrendered because of economic reasons," Tucker said. "(The owners) couldn't afford the animal or had to move out of state and couldn't take the animal with them or they moved to new housing that wouldn't allow them to have pets."

It's particularly noticeable when people bring in older pets. "The ones that are brought in for economic reasons are definitely not the real

young (pets)," Tucker said. "The ones that really break your heart are the ones that are 6, 7, 8 years old. We see a lot of those."

He said it creates an emotional roller coaster for the workers. "It's emotional when people have to surrender a pet and are broken-hearted about it, and it's emotional when someone comes in and is super happy to find a good match," Tucker said.

Sgt. Tim Barkman of Genesee County Animal Control said they also are seeing an increase in the number of pets surrendered. Barkman said many people come in to say they have to move out of the county or out of the state and can't take the pets with them. "Some people are saying that they can't afford the vet bills," he said. "It's a sad situation for the animal and the owner."

Another problem influenced by the economy is that fewer people are adopting pets. "We're trying everything we possibly can to help," Tucker said. "But there are less people adopting, it's been going down a little year to year."

Of the estimated 6 million to 8 million dogs and cats sent to animal shelters every year, half are euthanized and the rest adopted, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

"It's definitely discouraging for us," said Adam Goldfarb, a Humane Society spokesman. "One of our major goals is to develop and celebrate the bond between people and animals. It's so tragic when families reach a point when they can't afford to care for their pets."

There is no nationwide data being collected on the reasons dogs and cats are being abandoned by their owners, but shelter managers and advocates for animals say the trend is undeniable - and probably a bigger

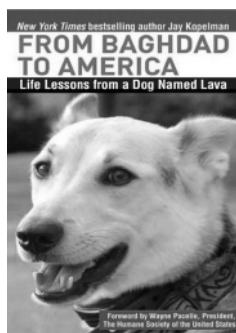
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Dog-Eared Books in Review

Arika Hage

From Baghdad to America
by Jay Kopelman

I wasn't sure what to expect from Kopelman's book. I hadn't read his first book, *From Baghdad with Love* so felt a bit lost at times, but was surprised by his book. I kept reading it.



Kopelman is a candid, poignant writer and holds back no emotions. His insight to Lava leads to insight within himself. "I hope I pass down the lessons I've

learned about honor, courage, and commitment. That each person has to find his own definition of things, and stand by it. That doing the right thing is more important than blindly following rules...that it's okay to say you're afraid." This book is a definite read for all Americans and those whose lives have been affected by a canine companion.

July 2008 • Skyhorse Publishing
224 pgs • \$23.95

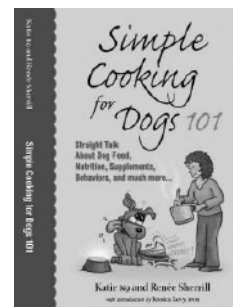
Simple Cooking for Dogs 101
by Kaite K9 & Renee Sherrill

Katie K9, professional dog trainer and coach, has a new book called *Simple Cooking for Dogs 101*. Your dog will love the wide variety of recipes created by Renee Sherrill from home cooked dinners to treats!

Katie K9's book details the importance of adding "people food" to your dog's diet to supplement commercial food. You will find recipes that cater to your dog's tastes while making it possible for them to live longer, happier lives.

Lots of useful information includes natural supplements suggestions, tips on how to pick out a good commercial dog food and more! Book is available from Katie's website and select retailers.

October 2008 • 160 pgs • \$13.95



Together Tag

www.togethertag.com

The Together Tag pet ID and recovery service provides a stylish, durable and reflective collar tag which was lab-tested under extreme environmental conditions. The ID tag is linked to a comprehensive pet recovery system backed by a state-of-the-art technology and Dogster's experience as representatives of over a million pets and their owners. A detailed profile of the pet is stored online pro-

viding contact information, any specific health or food requirements and more. If a registered dog or cat is



lost, an alert is sent out through the Together Tag system to animal shelters in the area of where the pet was lost through Dogster/Catster's net-

work of over 5,000 shelters nationwide. Additionally, the information on the Together Tag will quickly inform the finder of how to contact the owner and provide any special needs of the pet. A low, one-time Together Tag enrollment fee of \$24.95 provides unlimited profile and contact information updating for the life of the dog or cat.

Partners in Preparedness: Dogster and Catster donates \$5 for every identification tag sold to the American Red Cross. Proceeds help to support its pet safety program.

pets and economy continued

phenomenon than they are aware of.

"People are embarrassed to admit that's why they're giving them up," Tucker said.

In Omaha, the Nebraska Humane Society's shelter began tracking for the first time this year those pets given up because of financial constraints. Through mid-November, more than 275 pets were given up because their owners said they couldn't afford to keep them.

In Genesee County, Tucker said he arrived at work last week to find two dogs left in the Humane Society yard. "Somebody lifted them up and dropped them over the fence," he said. "It's terrible for those dogs to be left out in the elements."

The surrender desk at the Humane Society opens at 8 a.m., but they can only accept animals so long as there is space available for them. The desk is sometimes closed by 8:30 a.m. "We have to tell people that we'll have space in a few days," Tucker said.


The Animal Humane Association in Albuquerque, N.M., saw 69 dogs and cats turned in through September because the owners

couldn't afford to keep them. That compares with 48 in the same period in 2007 - a 44 percent increase, said executive director Peggy Weigle.

In response, Weigle's shelter began a program to open its emergency pet shelter - normally reserved for battered women needing a place to keep their pets for a while - to those suffering financially. So far this year, 45 pets have been taken in through the emergency program, compared with eight the previous year.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Virginia Beach, Va., began a program called Help Out Pets Everywhere (HOPE) to provide food, medical care and temporary homes for pets belonging to families with financial difficulties.

The program received 18 applications within its first week. Some of those people have never experienced hardship until now, and therefore, neither have their pets, McNally said.

"It's been devastating," said Amy McNally, a spokeswoman for the program. "For somebody to say, 'I can't afford to feed my dog' - it's a humbling time." 

Dog Websites

Apparel/Toys/Beds & More!

www.floydandjake.com
www.gelpedic.com
www.harrybarker.com
www.unleashedlife.com
www.doggievogue.com
www.bitchnewyork.com
www.mymascot.com
www.georgesf.com
www.trixieandpeanut.com
www.barkerandmeowsky.com
www.melialp.com
www.ruffaroundthehedges.com
www.bessieandbarnie.com
www.planetdog.com
www.dogisgood.com

Food

www.kooldogkafe.com
www.chefk9.com
www.pawsgourmet.com
www.dogeats.com

Information

www.animalhumanesociety.org
www.ktk9.com
www.akc.org
www.dogster.com
www.dogbreedinfo.com

Artwork

www.studiodogstar.com
www.artpaw.com

Donate your Car

www.MNPetsonWheels.com

Doggie Biscuits



As the winter rolls on, heating bills get higher and higher. We are all looking for ways to cut costs in our daily lives, but we would never

think of denying our puppy friends their treats. But those can get expensive as well, especially if you are a big dog like me. Some of my favorite treats are those big brand name dog biscuits. But they are like seven dollars for a box that's a little over a pound!

Here's a recipe that I can't even tell the difference from the brand name biscuits, and you can make them yourself for about 30 cents a pound.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup hot water
- 1/3 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup powdered milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 cups whole wheat flour

Directions:

In large bowl pour hot water over the margarine. Stir in powdered milk. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time. Knead for a few minutes to form stiff dough. Pat or roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into bone shapes. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool. They will dry out quite hard.

Makes about 1 1/4 pounds of biscuits.

Trust me, this recipe is so easy to make that I can almost do it, and I don't even have opposable thumbs. You should have no problem and it makes



a great treat and money saving alternative to the same thing you can buy in the store. Enjoy!

Next US First Dog

February 27, 2009

NEW YORK - IT'S NOTHING against the Obamas. But some Portuguese water dog owners aren't thrilled the breed is a front-runner for the first family.

The choice could mean a spike in the dogs' popularity - and that could mean a rise in shady breeders and fickle owners who don't understand the dogs and eventually abandon them, owners of Portuguese water dogs say.

'There's always the danger of something like that,' said Stu Freeman, president of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America.

'It's '101 Dalmatians' syndrome.' After that movie came out, 'everyone thought, 'aren't they cute,' ran out and bought the dogs and found out they were not quite as adorable as the ones in the movie, Mr Freeman said.

First lady Michelle Obama told People magazine that the family is looking to rescue a Portuguese water dog in April, though her press secretary said on Thursday that the decision isn't final. President Barack Obama had also mentioned a Labradoodle as an appealing choice.

'Obviously they have their favorites that the president and first lady have outlined before - with of course the Portuguese water dog

being a top contender - but there hasn't been a selection yet,' Katie McCormick Lelyveld said.

Portuguese water dogs were bred centuries ago to help fishermen along the Portugal coast, working as couriers, retrieving nets and diving for fish.

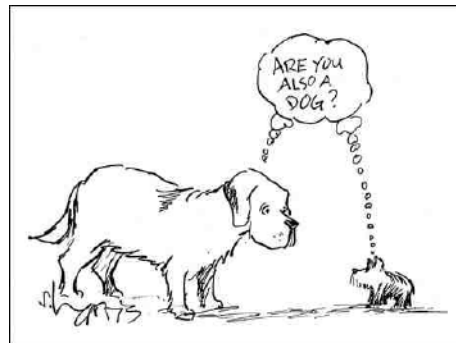
Gretch worries that if the Obamas choose the breed, puppy mills will sprout up. The dogs cost \$1,800 to \$2,500 and aren't as common as other popular breeds. They're prone to hip dysplasia, so finding a good breeder is important, she said, and the dogs don't often end up in shelters for adoption.

Steve Brooks, a dog trainer who works with celebrities, said he's already training more Labradors, which may be the result of 'Marley & Me,' which featured the breed.

After '101 Dalmatians,' the shelter where Daphna Nachminovitch worked was flooded with Dalmatians. Parents broke down and bought the puppies, she said. As the puppies got older and harder to manage, the kids lost interest and the dogs ended up in shelters.

The Obamas have said they plan to adopt from a shelter, something Nachminovitch, now vice president of cruelty investigations for PETA, hopes others will keep in mind. - AP

http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Lifestyle/Story/STIStory_343668.html



Cool Finds

poochIQ.com

For dogs with Ivy League aspirations, the **Pooch IQ Kit** is just what your canine pal needs! Put your pup's brain to the test with the **Pooch IQ Kit**. This kit is great for dogs of all sizes and comes with a variety of exercises and toys to test your dog's instincts, memory, and problem solving skills. The Pooch IQ Kit is a fun way to find out just how smart little Fido really is. Canine SATs anyone? \$49.99



michellesaintonge.com

The Pam Bag is one of the hottest handbags of this season. Inspired by the gallery artwork, "The Private Lives of Cats and Dogs" from Michelle SaintOnge, this bag lets you take the artwork off the gallery walls and all around the city. The Pam Bag is totally reversible, is hand silk-screened and is available in a signed and numbered limited edition of 200. \$125.



hugx.co.uk

hugx™ is a high quality pet feeder designed especially for the contemporary home, and is winner of the New York Pet Fashion Week Lifestyle Innovation Award 2008. hugx™ pet bowls have been designed with the ergonomic look of a stylish appliance rather than a simple pet bowl. Due to the uniquely angled bowl, gravity assists in the feeder "hugging" the floor. \$60-\$75.



Fun on 4 Paws Local Events

26th Annual Woofers & Hoofers
Saturday, May 2, 2009

Alimagnet Park, Burnsville

Mark your calendar and join the MVHS for their annual fundraising walk. For more information, www.mvh-spets.org, or call 952.894.5000.

Dogs' Lovers Weekend

May 7-10, 2009

Gunflint Lodge, Grand Marais

Treat yourself and your best friend to a fabulous weekend at Gunflint – with luxuries, amenities and special activities for both of you! Afternoon dog socials will give you a chance to meet other pets. Agility course for a K9 Olympics, northwoods style. They'll spoil you and your pooch for the entire weekend! For more information, call 800.328.3325 or visit www.gunflint.com.

Saint Paul Saints - Bring Your Dog to the Ball Park!

Sunday, May 10, 2009 1:05pm

Bring your dog to the ball park and watch the game with fido in foot! Then stop down behind the right field foul line for some small dog off leash playtime! Your ticket includes a hot dog, tickets for you and your pup, and a special gift. Order tickets at saintsgroups.com (password is 'dogday') or call 651.644.6659.

7th Annual Dog Days of Summer

Saturday, July 26, 2009 from 11:00am to 3:00pm

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. Visit: www.alimagnetdogpark.org.

NEW Dog Powered Scooter & Trike

www.dogpoweredscooter.com

Enjoy the trill of mushing - urban style! Check out the new "Dog Powered" SCOOTER and TRIKE. These revolutionary devices are the first animal/dog pulled units that place the dog in the REAR behind a steering wheel giving the rider precision steering control. They are made to work on paved sidewalks, bike paths, or smooth/packed dirt.

The scooters and trikes also essentially eliminates commands since the

dog is limited to follow the forward direction of the vehicle, making them safe/controllable and predictable.

Each scooter and trike have strong brakes, fenders and wheelcovers to protect your dog. Since they are also human powered, the load can be taken off your dog at any time, or you can team up with him and enjoy **the thrill of mushing - urban style!**

Not only are they great for outdoorsmen, these cool scooters and trikes are fun for responsible kids, older



folks and individuals with special needs, and people with service dogs.

For videos, safety tips, and prices: www.dogpoweredscooter.com, or call 541.383.3845.



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:

Corey Anderson Jim Anderson
 Becky Gardner Arika Hage
 Lori Mestenhauer Amanda Wheeler

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

Winter 2009
 Volume VIII, Issue 1

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.