

**ATTACHMENT K: EDITORIAL FROM *NAPA VALLEY REGISTER***

**OUR VIEW**

# Alston Park is for people, not just dogs

People who choose to follow the law and leash their dogs in restricted areas of Alston Park can still let their dogs run unleashed on 27 acres of the 157-acre park. But those who choose to break the law and put their dogs' freedom ahead of public safety should be ticketed by local police. Enforcement of the law protects the city from liability and fosters greater enjoyment of the park.

**I**t's a dog's life.

A dog is man's best friend.

We're dog-tired.

Each of those sayings has a ring of truth, especially in light of the ongoing debate over Napa's leash law and how it should be enforced in Alston Park.

**F**irst of all, people generally love dogs. Some people love dogs more than people, and treat dogs better than people.

Thus, the expression, "it's a dog's life."

But, here's the rub. When people put the well-being of dogs over the well-being of people, people tend to get hurt.

Take the Napa woman and her dog recently attacked by an unleashed dog. Take Diane Whipple.

**W**e support a more reasonable approach, in which people agree to treat dogs — and people — with respect.

By letting unleashed dogs run in 27 acres of the 157-acre park, the city was seemingly able to please dogs and their owners.

Dogs seemed happy about this solution.

As a rule, dogs are fairly easy to please, thus the expression, "A dog is man's best friend."

But the compromise arrangement wasn't good enough for some dog owners, who feel they just have to put their pooches ahead of people and above the law, exposing people to bites and the city to liability.

**"W**e're dog tired" is a phrase familiar to anyone who has thrown one too many Frisbees to Rex, who just can't seem to run after one more.

He plops down, lets his tongue hang and catches his breath.

That's what the City Council did when it gave Police Chief Dan Monez authority to issue tickets to dog owners who insist on breaking the law by unleashing their dogs in the restricted area of the park.

Let the city catch its breath.

Enforce the law on the books.

Let us all enjoy the park.