



Terri O'Brien Street Marketing
248-347.4350
Terri@streetmktg.com

PAWS IN THE PARK

Canton, MI –The Township of Canton will be the host of a brand new pet festival this August. The first annual Paws in the Park event will be held at Heritage Park on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 & 23, 2009, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Paws in the Park will feature entertainment, adoptions, education, food and shopping for pet owners and their pets.

On Saturday, August 22 Paws in the Park will host a one-mile Paw Walk to benefit the Humane Society of Huron Valley. This will not be your average dog walk, owners will be encouraged to dress their dogs in costumes and create floats to win great prizes from the event's sponsors. There is a \$15 minimum donation to participate in the Paw Walk. The first thousand people to register will receive an official Paws in the Park bandana. The Humane Society of Huron Valley, along with other local shelters, will have on-site pet adoptions both days. The mission of Paws in the Park is to find loving homes for every abandoned, abused and orphaned animal. The Humane Society of Huron Valley will be selling tickets at the shelter, Monday – Sunday noon to 6 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

The Township of Canton has big plans underway for a new dog park, and will partner with Paws in the Park to reach their build out fund goal. Paws in the Park will be donating a portion of the tickets sales to Canton Leisure Services to help build their new three acres dog park which will be located adjacent to the Barlett-Travis House at 500 N. Ridge Road. Advance tickets are on sale at the front desk of Summit on the Park located at 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI 48188. Hours: Monday – Friday 5:30 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Paws in the Park will have hours of entertainment for owners and their pets. The high-flying Purina® Incredible Dog Team, a collection of some of the world's most athletic canines, will entertain consumers at the Paws in the Park event. In addition to their performance in Canton, the canines are set to perform across the USA. Utilizing a high-energy performance set to music, the trainers and their dogs entertain while also educating people about responsible pet care and how proper nutrition and training can bring out the best in any dog, at any life stage. The team stresses the "incredible" potential in every dog, which is reflected in a number of canine team members who were adopted at animal shelters and rescue groups around the country. The athletic feats performed by the team include rolling back catches, two-legged balancing acts on the trainer's feet and jumping nearly 10 feet in the air to snare a flying disc.

Paws in the Park participants can also enjoy a high energy performance from the Rock n' Roll K9's. Canines and their trainers put on a 45 minute agility show while moving

and grooving to your favorite rock n' roll music. Children are asked to join in on the fun and become a part of the show.

Paws in the Park staff encourage consumers to bring their dogs (on a leash) to the event so that their furry friends can be a part of the action and compete in the Ultimate Air Dog United Kennel Club Competition. Dogs compete for distance in when running of a dock into a 40' pool. The event is hosted by Milt Wilcox, the former Detroit Tiger Pitcher famous for winning the 1984 World Series. Milt and his dog Sparky have been seen on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "ESPN's Cold Pizza" along with competing in many of their "Great Outdoor Games".

There will be local and national vendors on site to educate pet owners on pet nutrition, obedience training, pet care and grooming. There will be plenty of exhibitors showcasing the latest fashions and pet products that you won't find in stores.

Paws in the Park has a small entrance fee for hours of fun. Advance tickets are \$4 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Children 2 and under free. Dogs must be on a leash and under control by their owner at all times. Rain or shine. No refunds.

Support of the event comes from several local companies including HOUR MAGAZINE, WCSX, WRIF, WMGC, AT & T Real Yellow Pages, Renewal By Andersen and Trupp Chiropractic.

For more information about Paws in the Park, visit www.PawsintheParkUSA.com

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