

Ridgewood, NJ Awarded Dog-Friendly Community Award



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New York, NY — As a result of its efforts to educate and provide resources for local dog-owning residents through the creation of a Responsible Pet Ownership Committee, the town of Ridgewood, New Jersey has been awarded the first-ever AKC Dog-Friendly Community Award. The award honors dog-friendly communities and/or community officials and the actions they have taken that promote the well-being of dogs in their community.

The town worked with its residents and local AKC clubs and federations like the Ramapo Kennel Club and New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs to establish the Ridgewood Responsible Pet Ownership Committee. The Committee, led by Ridgewood resident and AKC Delegate Jeffrey Ball, hosted numerous public education events in 2013, including a free microchip clinic and a dog body language seminar.

“Kudos to the officials of Ridgewood, New Jersey for promoting responsible dog ownership and education as a solution to canine issues in their town,” said Sheila Goffe, Director of AKC Government Relations. “We also sincerely thank Jeff Ball for his efforts in conjunction with the local clubs and federations to form the Committee and his ongoing leadership.”

“As mayor and a dog owner, I’m honored by this recognition,” Mayor Paul Aronsohn said. “We’re a dog-friendly community, and this award speaks to who we are and what we’re doing.”

One of the Committee’s first acts was to donate two AKC Reunite Proscan 700 microchip scanners to Ridgewood, which allowed law enforcement and town officials to identify lost pets without having to call animal control and spend additional funds. The Committee also hosted a free microchip clinic for the first 75 people to sign up. The New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs and Ramapo Kennel Club donated the microchips, AKC Reunite pet recovery service enrollment and the veterinarian’s time to the town. The microchips will allow the dogs to be reunited with their owners if they are ever lost or stolen.

The Village of Ridgewood received the award in a special presentation at Saddle River County Park’s Dog Run on February 8, 2014. Ridgewood Mayor Paul Aronsohn, Councilwoman Gwenn Hauck, Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan and other members of the Ridgewood Village Council and Government were on hand to accept the award. The officials, local owners and their dogs, including a Beagle, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Great Dane, Leonberger, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Spinone Italiano and more, celebrated with a reception and a cake from the [Cake Boss](#) at the Ridgewood Community Center following the awards ceremony.

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State of New Jersey



THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION By Senator O'TOOLE and Assemblymen RUSSO and RUMANA

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to join the American Kennel Club in honoring and saluting the Village of Ridgewood, Bergen County, in acknowledgment of its selection to receive the Dog-Friendly Community Award during a public presentation on February 8, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, This prestigious accolade is being bestowed upon the Village of Ridgewood in recognition of its outstanding efforts in promoting the well-being of dogs within the community-at-large; and,

WHEREAS, The Village of Ridgewood is respected for creating the Ridgewood Responsible Pet Ownership Committee, which hosted numerous educational events throughout the year, including a free microchip clinic and a dog body language seminar; and,

WHEREAS, The Village of Ridgewood has been guided by citizens of character and public-spiritedness, and its leaders of today continue the Village of Ridgewood's tradition of effective government; and,

WHEREAS, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey depend, in great measure, upon superb municipalities such as the Village of Ridgewood; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting for the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly to acknowledge and salute the Village of Ridgewood as the recipient of the Dog-Friendly Community Award; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby honors and congratulates the Village of Ridgewood upon its selection to receive the Dog-Friendly Community Award, and pays tribute to the outstanding efforts of its officials and citizens; and,

Be it Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution be signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk.

Attest:



Jennifer A. McQuaid
Secretary of the Senate



Dana M. Bartley
Clerk of the General Assembly

Stephen M. Sweeney
President of the Senate

Thomas R. Hightower
Speaker of the General Assembly



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Ridgewood, NJ