

Canine Political Action Committee

Haven Daily:

Take a walk in one of San Francisco's picturesque parks, and it won't take you long to notice: there are more dogs here than children. Now, dog lovers here have formed a political action committee, or PAC, to promote the interests of their four-footed friends. With an estimated one hundred thousand dog owners in the city, DogPAC could have a major impact in the November election. The PAC's president, Bruce Wolfe – yes, that's his real name – let owners know about an upcoming mayor's forum DogPAC is hosting.

Bruce Wolfe:

...want to make sure everybody has a chance to hear the candidates, uh, on these kinds of issues.

Bruce Wolfe:

Dogs are as much an issue as children. And, you know, there're a lot... There are parent-teachers associations. We're just like them but only for the dogs.

Justin Kleisley:

All different people and all different industries have-have, um, lobbyists and political action committees looking out for them. I think it's good for dogs.

Sanford Johnson:

And there are many interests that are aligned against the rights and privileges of pet owners and, uh, so, to-to counter that we have to, uh, you know, be organized.

Haven Daily:

The voter bloc is not going unnoticed in the city's political circles.

Dennis Herrera:

Nothing is unusual in terms of political activism here in San Francisco. And, uh, we have a lot of dog owners here in San Francisco, and they are very passionate, and the issues that come up are very serious.

Haven Daily:

The big issue that has owners on edge is a proposal to close down parkland where dogs are allowed to run off-leash. Environmentalists say the dogs threaten native plants and animals. Others are concerned about the risk of dog attacks, but owners say properly trained dogs should be allowed to run free in some areas.

Bruce Wolfe:

There are some dogs that need to be on a leash. It's really more about the handler, the people on the other side of the leash, uh, that really need the leash.

Haven Daily:

The PAC says they'll support candidates who pledge to look out for man's best friend. Those who don't could end up in the doghouse.

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Haven Daily, Associated Press, San Francisco.

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