

Stonnington Leader

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009
COMMUNITY WRAPAROUND

2 PETS IN THE PARK March 31, 2009

Pets in the Park



Bailey could be a good mate for your best friend.

Picture: MARTIN REDDY N40MP650

WANT a happy holiday, but there's no stopover for Rover? Your precious pooch could have just as much fun with a professional pet minder.

Cheryl Hill, of Glen Iris, answered a small job ad in the paper for pet minders.

An animal lover, Ms Hill also thought occasional dog care would give her dog, Bailey, a companion.

"I love animals, and the company (Don't Fret Pet)

was quite happy to have minders with their own dog," she says. Dogs are matched to minders on criteria including breed, size and length of stay.

"It might be for a week-end, or a few weeks or months," she says.

The owner will check out the minder's house and yard and have a short visit to familiarise the dog.

Then they "drop them off with food and bedding (and

you look after them in your own home as part of the family, the way they'd be looked after at home".

Her top tips for a successful stay are:

>> have a short stay first, to get the dog used to your home;

>> stick to the dog's routine as much as possible, such as feeding times and foods; and

>> walk them and vary the route, but always keep them on a leash.

Foster homes mind dogs