FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Special to the Pioneer Press):

RMK Apartment Communities Go to the Dogs…and Cats and Birds
Chicagoland rental communities pamper pets

Arf, arf. Meow. Tweet, tweet. RMK Management Corporation, a leading apartment management company with communities throughout Chicagoland, understands the importance of listening to all of its residents when planning a community’s events or amenities – including the furry and feathered ones.

According to Diana Pittro, executive vice-president of RMK, most RMK apartment communities allow residents to have cats, birds and aquatic pets, along with others in their apartments. They also permit dogs that are listed on the American Kennel Club’s register of non-aggressive breeds.

One such community is Butterfield Oaks, a community of 336 apartments in Aurora.

“Butterfield Oaks is the only apartment community in Aurora that leads directly to the Illinois Prairie Path, so there are miles of trails for our residents to walk their pets,” said Jane Cervantes, the community’s property manager. “We also have an open-door policy in our leasing office. Pets can stop by any day for homemade pet treats.”

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Cervantes added that Butterfield Oaks also caters to pets during special occasions, such as their Annual Resident Appreciation Week.

“Recently, we had Aussie Pet Grooming come to the community to give free pet grooming for our community’s pets,” she said.

Butterfield Oaks features eight one- and two-bedroom floor plans, each featuring private entrances, large patios and balconies, gourmet kitchens, luxury baths, walk-in closets, and full-size washers and dryers. The community clubhouse features a business center, fitness center and sundeck with a large, outdoor heated pool. Rents range from $875 to $1,195 per month.

Also in Aurora, RMK offers ALARA Summerfield, a community of 368 loft-style apartments.

According to Gail Youngblood, the community’s property manager, pets join the fun with other residents at community events.

“Each year we host an annual Halloween parade, which all of the pets are invited to. The kids in the community love seeing their four-legged neighbors dressed up in costumes,” Youngblood said.

ALARA Summerfield also features a dog-walk area on its grounds with doggie stations for easy clean up.

The community has six apartment floor plans available including one bedrooms, one-bedroom-plus-dens, two bedrooms, two-bedroom-plus lofts and three bedrooms. Each feature large patios and balconies, gourmet kitchens, and full-size washers and dryers. Rents range from $980 to $1,787.

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At The Landings at Amhurst Lake, an RMK-managed community in Waukegan featuring 340 apartments, the staff interacts with its pet tenants on a daily basis.

“We have our local doggies here that come into the leasing center every day for a treat. For them, it’s a regular part of the day,” said Heather Lander, the community’s property manager. “We also make special birthday cards for our pet residents.”

Lander added that when residents move in with pets the staff gives them a special package with pet treats and air freshener. The community also features a dog-walking area.

The Landings at Amhurst Lakes offers six floor plans with one or two bedrooms each. Each include gourmet kitchens, luxury baths, closets with custom shelving and a full-size washer and dryer. The community features an outdoor swimming pool and sundeck, tennis court, playground, business center and fitness center. Rents range from $975 to $1,450.

For more information on any of these communities, please visit http://www.rmk.com/chicagoland_properties.asp.

Chicago-based RMK Corp. manages more than 7,500 apartment homes in the Chicago and Minneapolis areas. The company’s portfolio spans a range of apartment types, from high-rise and mid-rise buildings to two- and three-story walk-up, garden apartments.

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**Editors:** Prices are subject to change. To confirm current information, contact Taylor Johnson & Olesker at (312) 245-0202.