

**Vancouver Dog Strategy
Task Force**

STRATEGY FOR DOGS IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**Prepared for the Vancouver Parks Board
February 2008**



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Executive Summary

The need to find a balance that accommodates the needs of all who wish to use and enjoy Vancouver's parks and public green spaces has caused heated public debate here for years.

In September, 2006, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation announced the formation of an all-volunteer task force, made up of citizens with proven expertise in specific areas of stakeholder interest and concern. Members were charged with the task of developing a strategy that would be a balanced compromise respecting and accommodating all sides of the issue, and all legitimate uses for the public lands.

During our year-long deliberations, members of the Task Force conducted one of the most extensive public consultation and engagement programs ever done on the issue in Vancouver, along with a comprehensive program of research into how the issue has been – and is being – managed in other North American jurisdictions.

Aside from the occasional zealot who apparently believes all dogs belong in a stew (!), - or at the very least, that there should be no dogs allowed EVER on public lands - most of the Vancouver public encouraged us to find some time- and space-sharing compromise that would provide a mix of dog-free zones, on-leash areas, and off-leash areas.

Find room for everyone, the public told us.

And do it in a way that respects the rights and needs of all citizens, sustains the glorious natural environment we've been blessed with, and provides a cost-effective quality-of-life urban amenity that raises Vancouver's stature and appeal as a truly global community.

With the help and input from literally hundreds of concerned and caring Vancouverites, we think we've done just that.

Our report – the findings of the Task Force and the recommendations and action plans suggested by a majority of its members – follows.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Infrastructure Recommendations

1a. High priority

1. All off-leash areas to be full-time OLAs, where possible
2. Where shared / flex space is necessary, should be equitable and flexible, with strong self-policing and stewardship involvement of dog community
3. Off-leash areas should be of a size and location appropriate for the population
4. Adopt a policy of 'no net loss' of OLAs
5. Designate selected areas – Mountain View Cemetery, sand-based sports fields, some areas and parks – as dog free zones
6. Designate specific off-leash beach areas
7. Improve signage and ensure consistency all over The City of Vancouver

1b. Medium priority

1. Ensure recreational space is provided for families both BOTH children and dogs
2. Provide amenities for dog owners within OLAs
3. Provide (possibly through sponsorships) more environmentally-friendly way of disposing of dog waste
4. Name the off-leash areas to distinguish them from the parks they inhabit
5. Implement a 'cleaner', consistent signage system
6. Investigate alternate surfaces for small, high traffic off-leash areas
7. Define levels of service, including possible user-pay destination dog parks

2. Management Recommendations

2a. High priority

1. Ensure OLAs are a line item in the Park Board's Capital Plan
2. Adopt a policy of 'no net loss' of OLAs
3. Communicate the 'separateness' and accompanying distinctive responsibilities of off-leash areas from the parks they inhabit
4. Review dog strategy regularly, and update as needed
5. Foster and encourage partnerships with dog-owning community
6. Explore alternative funding sources within the Park Board mandate
7. Encourage private sector involvement

2b. Medium priority

1. Assign a portion of licensing fees to the Park Board
2. Work with other governments and private agencies to establish more OLAs on non-Park Board land
3. Apply for funding for research and pilot projects into (dog) waste management

3. Education Recommendations

3a. High priority

1. Implement a media campaign to educate the public about the rights of all user groups, OLAs, dog free zone locations, etc.
2. Implement a public education program about broader dog-related issues
3. Implement a dog safety program for elementary school children
4. Enhance existing education initiatives, especially re: benefits of licensing, bylaw compliance, responsible dog ownership, etc.
5. Foster partnerships with the dog-owning community to assist with education, self-policing, stewardship, events and training

3b. Medium priority

1. Offer mini 'fun dog' training events
2. Install a covered bulletin board at all OLAs
3. Encourage Animal Control to offer licensing discounts for obedience-trained dogs
4. Provide meet-and-greet opportunities for people who are unfamiliar with, or afraid of, dogs

4. Enforcement Recommendations

4a. High priority

1. Establish, promote, and track dog issue calls through 3-1-1
2. Work with Animal Control to identify and focus on habitually problematic dogs and owners
3. Expand involvement of Park Board in bylaw compliance education
4. Make it easier and more convenient to purchase and renew a dog license
5. Establish a six-month training program – within the OLAs - for Animal Control officers
6. Expand and support Park Board and Animal Control involvement in bylaw compliance
7. Engage the dog-owning community as stewards, and to police themselves and other dog owners

4b. Medium priority

1. Implement an incentive and / or value added campaign to increase the rate of dog licensing
2. Consider a one-year 'amnesty' or 'free' license program

a. Background

On May 29, 2006, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved the creation of a Dog Strategy Task Force, a six-member panel that would gather input from the community and stakeholders concerned with issues of dogs in the urban environment.

The panel would then prepare and present to the Park Board recommendations for a strategy that would find a compromise, one that would balance the needs of all park users, and ensure all would have equal opportunity to enjoy Vancouver's parks and green spaces.

On September 11, 2006, the Park Board appointed the six panel members – three of whom were dog owners and three of whom were not - plus one alternate. (One original member resigned in November, 2006, and was replaced by the alternate.)

This report is the consensus and work of four of the seven members; without consulting other Task Force members, the other two chose to present a separate, minority report to the Board.

The Task Force met a total of 17 times between September, 2006 and June, 2007; hosted three public meetings in December, 2006; and received literally hundreds of emails and letters from citizens who wanted their opinions considered.

The Task Force planned to meet again in August, 2007, but chose not to do so because of the civic labour disruption.

On October 29, 2007, the Park Board decided to conclude the work of the Task Force, to thank members for their efforts, and asked that staff prepare a summary report, as soon as possible, detailing findings to date.

Unfortunately, this summary report did not include the recommendations of the majority of the Task Force members, many of which were developed as a direct result of input received from the public.

These recommendations are the result of extensive research and consultation with stakeholders and the general public. Furthermore, they represent the unanimous view of a majority of the members of the panel members - chosen and appointed by the Park Board.

As such, we believe they merit serious consideration.

Therefore, this document was prepared to bring these recommendations to the attention of the Board.

b. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference, established by the Park Board, directed the Task Force to develop a strategy to achieve the following key outcomes:

- A happy parks and leisure experience for all;
- A fair representation of all views;
- A sharing of public spaces within specified practices, rules and regulations;
- A balanced compromise between restraint and 'freedom' for dogs;
- The identification of baseline data and key success factors; and
- The identification of realistic and cost-effective solutions.

The Task Force was also directed to formulate a strategy for dogs, including a series of recommendations pertaining to:

- The 'responsible ownership' education of dog owners;
- The enforcement of dog-related rules;
- The infrastructure required for accommodating dogs, including the identification and design of locations where dogs would be welcome;
- The overall management of this issue from both the political and administrative points of view;
- The proposed enhancements to the off-leash program referred by the Park Board; and
- Other issues the majority of Task Force members might suggest, which we determined to include:
 - Waste management;
 - The education of non-dog owners, particularly children and those new
 - Canadians who may have immigrated from areas that are not as dog-friendly as Canada; and
 - Encouraging a sense of community among dog owners, with a shared goal of responsible pet ownership, self-policing, and good stewardship of public spaces.

The process the Task Force was directed to follow was to include, but not be limited to, the following steps:

- Develop an understanding of the legal framework in Vancouver vis a vis such relevant issues as park usage rights and responsibilities;
- Develop an understanding of the existing off-leash program, its history, successes and shortcomings;
- Develop an understanding of the type, quantity, location and characteristics of public lands available in Vancouver, and the existing availability of off-leash areas;
- Review data on dog ownership and dog licensing;
- Discuss issues with relevant staff of the Park Board, Animal Control Services, the School Board, Engineering Services, Legal Services, and the Mountain View Cemetery;
- Research the programs, challenges and experiences of other municipalities and government agencies in Greater Vancouver, British Columbia, and other cities in Canada and the United States;
- Host one or more public forums, inviting citizens to offer testimonial evidence;
- Request comments from Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board;
- Formulate a series of draft recommendations for the following areas: education, enforcement, and infrastructure;
- Host one or more public forums where the public is invited to comment on the draft recommendations;
- Prepare a final report, including a listing of high-priority and mid-priority recommendations; and
- Make a public presentation to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and / or its committees on the results of this work.

c. Engagement / Consultation / Research

Information-gathering methodology:

The Task Force invited guest speakers from the Park Board, School Board, Mountain View Cemetery, Animal Control Services, Police Services, and the Permits and Licenses office.

In addition, three public forums were held in the fall of 2006, and numerous comments and suggestions came in by email. Task Force members also collected information about relevant programs underway in other cities in Greater Vancouver, North America, and Europe.

i. Key messages from guest speakers

(as compiled from Park Board staff Minutes, November 23, 2006)

Walter Argent, Sergeant, Vancouver Police:

Sgt. Argent focused his remarks on dog enforcement issues. He noted that police constables occasionally accompany Animal Control officers on enforcement patrols. The police constables are usually dressed in street clothes (not in uniform), and join the Animal Control officers if problems have been encountered with a particular dog owner who has broken the law; the police officer most often assists by obtaining the offending individual's identification.

Sgt. Argent highlighted two enforcement challenges in particular:

- Inadequate financial resources within the Police Department to pay for the allocation of more constables to animal control duty; and
- A lack of motivation on the part of some constables who are reluctant to tackle this issue as they view dog enforcement as low-priority, especially in the downtown core.

Paul Teichroeb, Chief License Inspector; Rosemary Hagiwara, Manager of License Office, Community Services:

Mr. Teichroeb discussed the Animal Control Shelter, and the significant changes the facility has experienced over the last decade.

He said the Shelter was much more humane in its daily operations now. For example, staff and volunteers have a walking program for captured dogs. An adoption program for captured dogs has now been implemented; in the past, dogs were euthanized after one week at the shelter.

Mr. Teichroeb also noted that dog issues had become higher profile in the last decade, as dog owners sought more public space for their dogs, and non-owners wanted a more rigid enforcement of the existing bylaws.

He explained that Animal Control Services has limited capacity for enforcement: the Service has a total of 11 officers, who must cover an 8 am to 11 pm schedule, seven days a week.

He also noted that in May, 2004, Council approved a five-year strategic plan for Animal Control Services
(*Summary of bylaws included in Appendix D*)

Nancy Clarke, Manager of Animal Control Services, Community Services:

Ms. Clarke said that, in her opinion, ‘knowing the owner of a dog’ is the key issue.

She pointed out that only about 30% of dogs in Vancouver – about 18,000 out of an estimated total of 60,000 to 80,000 – are licensed.

Contrast this with Calgary, she said, where well over 90% of dogs are licensed, which is the result of both a strong, high profile public education program, and stronger enforcement (more officers per capita, and officers are reportedly armed).

She pointed out that the annual budget of Vancouver Animal Control Services is about \$1 million. Ms. Clarke has a vision for a ‘canine community centre’ in Vancouver, which would combine enforcement and training services.

Glen Hodges, Manager, Mountain View Cemetery, Community Services:

Mr. Hodges noted that Mountain View is the only cemetery in Vancouver, encompasses some 105 acres, and has about 150,000 people interred on the site.

Until the late 1990s, signs were posted that made it very clear, ‘No dogs allowed’. After it was pointed out that no such rule had ever been approved, the signs were modified to read, ‘Please leash your dog’.

Since that time, however, problems with dogs have increased significantly: off-leash dogs are reportedly disturbing cemetery visitors, and dogs are relieving themselves on graves. There have been occasional enforcement blitzes, but these have not seemed to have deterred this inappropriate behavior.

ii. Key messages from guest speakers

(as compiled from Park Board staff Minutes, January 25, 2007)

Mac Stairs, Vancouver Park Board:

Mr. Stairs described a dog waste composter project at Everett Crowley Park, installed in the fall of 2006 by a local committee as a pilot project to serve 10 to 12 users.

The waste would be turned and layered with leaves, then was to be tested in the fall of 2007 for chemical composition then used on shrub beds. The bags used are biodegradable and the costs are minimal. The project is volunteer supported.

Chris Foxon, Vancouver School Board:

Mr. Foxon is responsible for the maintenance of school sites from the school buildings themselves to the neighbouring street, some 600 acres of land in total. He provided a copy of a low cost VSB dog sign: ‘Be responsible, respect other uses, obey hours, leash dogs’, developed particularly for elementary schools.

He said each school handles dog issues in its own way. He noted that dog-friendly school fields have reported reduced vandalism and less discarded drug paraphernalia. Concerns about dog waste have been expressed by both parents and workers.

Over the years, more and more schools are fencing their boundaries. Some schools – Templeton High School, Lord Nelson Elementary, Magee High School - also have special garbage containers buried in the ground, which are emptied by a company under contract.

iii. Key messages from the public

Based on the three public meetings, and hundreds of emails and letters received, the majority of Task Force members distilled the following key messages, a representative summary of all opinions expressed:

Comments from both dog owners and non-owners:

- The current dog off-leash program in Vancouver parks (design, time allocations, signage, etc.) creates problems for everyone. The current situation has led to conflicts between dog owners and non-owners: each groups feels it is not well understood by the other.
- The behavior of ‘problem dog owners’ and their dog(s) is a concern for all.
- Dog owners who don’t pick up after their animals are a problem.
- Some dog owners have reportedly been aggressive toward City employees and other park users when asked to comply with City bylaws.
- There is general support that there should be areas in parks where dogs (whether on or off the leash) would not be allowed.
- The presence of dogs and their owners helps deter crime.
- Areas of conflict over park use exist throughout the city, although it is more pronounced in some areas. Including Kits Beach, David Lam Park and Coopers Park
- Mutual respect is needed for all park users.

Comments from non-owners:

- “I’ve lost my park.”
- “I don’t want to be disturbed by dogs.”
- “My safety, (or, my child’s safety) is at risk.”
- “My recreational / leisure experience is being eroded by off-leash dogs.”
- “My park is unsanitary because of dogs peeing and pooing, even if the owners pick up after their pets.”
- “Human rights outweigh dog rights.”
- “Dog owners appear to have a sense of entitlement.”
- “There are too many dogs in the city.”
- “Dog owners humanize their dogs (i.e., think of them as human).”
- “Dog owners are overweight, and should be forced to walk with their dogs, rather than allow them to run off leash.”
- Generally, non-owners want the existing bylaws to be enforced.
- Pockets of conflict, some very serious, may not always be apparent. For example, dogs chasing birds.

Comments from dog owners:

- Dog owners want more off-leash space close to their homes.
- They are saying / feeling, “I have rights, too” and “My needs are not being met”.
- Dog owners want appropriate enforcement. The majority admit they break the rules, although they also characterize themselves as responsible citizens.
- Responsible dog ownership behaviors should be encouraged; enforcement emphasis should be on ‘out of control’ dogs, rather than on all off-leash dogs, even those who are well-behaved and carefully supervised.
- There are a number of dog owners who want to help make the dog off-leash program better; for example, by implementing a volunteer dog watch program.
- Shared park hours are too restrictive; permanent off-leash areas are needed.
- Dog park areas should incorporate more and better waste management techniques.
- Current signage and communication is poor.
- There is a need for areas that accommodate families with both children and dogs.
- Current enforcement initiatives go after the ‘easy targets’, i.e. mothers with children and dogs.
- Fenced dog play areas might mitigate conflict, and could be - at least in part - sponsored privately.
- Off-leash areas are an important key to properly socializing a dog, particularly in an urban environment.

iv. Summary of findings from other cities

It seems that most fast-growing cities in North America – probably, in the entire world – have faced dog-related challenges at one time or another.

The core issue seems to be the same, no matter what city you're in: respecting the rights of all parties.

In a nutshell: How to find a balance between those who want to keep public spaces 'dog-free zones', and those who believe there should be room for well-trained pets to play and exercise off leash.

The sub-issues are also the same in all cities: equitable shared space arrangements, waste management, enforcement, dog obedience training, how-to-deal-safely-with-dogs education for children, environmental concerns, licensing, signage, off leash program costs, and alternate revenue sources, including sponsorship opportunities.

Several large cities have even incorporated an off-leash program into their overall crime- and drug-fighting effort, with very positive results.

Members of the Task Force, working individually, researched the way various cities and jurisdictions managed dog off-leash issues, and the programs they have introduced to ensure their parks are enjoyed by all.

The core issue and sub-issues may be very similar from one jurisdiction to another, but all have found – or are actively developing – the balance that works best for their publics.

Following are the highlights of the data gathered; more details about particular programs are available from the Task Force (*More information is provided in Appendix A*).

Arlington, Virginia

Arlington, a world-famous suburb of Washington, D.C., has been a pioneer in the development of dog parks, and has been providing off-leash areas since the early 1980s. The municipality has experimented with various surfacing materials, including mulch, grass, wood chips, and decomposed granite.

A volunteer-run community dog group is employed to conduct regular sweeps of off-leash areas for dog waste and dangerous garbage, and to act as a 'community watch' to thwart crime and vagrancy.

Burnaby

Is currently studying the Calgary model. At present, dogs are prohibited from beaches, picnic areas, playgrounds, and environmentally-sensitive areas.

Calgary

Widely-praised as a model for finding and providing a balance of services and park areas, Calgary offers more than 140 dedicated dog play areas.

Outreach programs include in-school education for children that focuses on dog safety, as well as park clean-up days, and community events. Robust enforcement of bylaws, including fines or warnings on a case-by-case basis by highly-trained Animal Control officers with special constable status have resulted in an extremely high (more than 90%) rate of licensing. .

Coquitlam

This city operates a centralized enforcement system for all bylaws, i.e. parking, dog issues, etc.

Edmonton

Dogs in off-leash areas must respond to voice and signal commands. Site monitors are assigned to each park, and private community groups conduct annual park clean-ups.

Kelowna

Most off-leash areas are fenced. Bag dispensers are located at the entrances and within larger fenced areas. These dispensers are stocked by the local dog owners' association, whose members also monitor the parks and coordinate volunteer clean-up efforts.

Miami-Dade

Off-leash areas (known as 'Bark Parks') are fenced, with double doors to insure dogs stay confined within, along with skill and training equipment and drinking fountains. Free 'poo bags' are full colour and paid for by advertising.

Animal Control Services has a mobile clinic / truck that offers free spaying/neutering, as well as community outreach, shots, and licenses for sale. Reduced license fees for seniors and those on income assistance are readily available from decentralized government kiosks throughout the region.

Nanaimo

This Vancouver Island jurisdiction provides a high number of off-leash areas. There is a limit of two dogs per person, and owners are explicitly liable for any damage or injury inflicted by their pet. Operation of the off-leash program is contracted out to a private company, and not run by the city.

New York

This major U.S. city provides a number of dedicated parks and beaches, as well as smaller, fenced-in 'dog runs' which, in dense areas of limited space, may be as small as a tennis court.

In keeping with the principles of New York's successful CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) program, almost all parks provide 'Courtesy Hours' which allow dogs and owners full access to the park from dusk to dawn. Results show that the nearby presence of dogs and their owners is a significant deterrent to would-be criminals.

All dedicated off-leash areas are fenced. New York was one of the first communities to enact 'pooper-scooper' laws (in 1978); bags are provided for free.

The City has experimented with a variety of surfacing materials for the off-leash areas, and currently uses Zeolite (hydrated alumino-silicate minerals, a naturally-formed by-product of volcanic ash and rock, used in water purification) to surface all small dog runs. Zeolite is gentle on dogs' paws, and acts as an organic anti-oxidant to deodorize the run.

Special NYC community outreach programs include agility training, animal handling courses, elementary school safety programs, and a special animal control volunteer program for at-risk youth.

Dogs who are unleashed or out of control in prohibited areas may be seized. NYC has a very high population of dogs, but an extremely low rate of licensing compliance, despite having the lowest fees in North America (\$8.50 / \$11). As a result, the City offsets program costs through community and corporate sponsorships.

North Vancouver City

This jurisdiction offers both dedicated and ‘seasonal’ off-leash areas, i.e. some parks prohibit dogs during the summer months.

Ottawa

Off-leash designation is currently decided by community associations. The City is presently conducting a study of the feasibility of introducing dedicated parks with waste disposal containers. The City is also experimenting with pet waste composting methods and systems: the 93,000 dogs in Ottawa produce an estimated 45,000 pounds (20,500 kilograms) of waste per day..

The City has a dog bite prevention program for children - ‘Know! Slow! Freeze! - as well as a Dog Buddies program in which dogs are brought to schools to help educate the children.

Each year, about 350 people are bitten by dogs in the city of Ottawa; almost one-third of these victims are children under age 10 and the vast majority of dog bites occur on private property.

Penticton

Although the City has just one animal control officer, one fenced off-leash area, and an estimated 90% LACK of compliance with leash laws. If caught, first offenders receive a written warning, and a second offense results in a fine.

Port Moody

This jurisdiction has implemented a staggered fine system (i.e. different penalties for first, second and third offenses, etc.), and provides centralized enforcement of all bylaw infractions.

Portland, Oregon

This city recently completed its own task force study. Recommendations that came out of that study concluded that *“Enforcement, including monetary consequences for violations, must continue to play a role, but it should be balanced by increased public education and information.”*

Portland currently offers a balance of dedicated and shared off-leash spaces. Shared hours are decided on a case-by-case basis, according to factors such as density, proximity to schools, and public input. Park users can lobby on line for and against proposed new dog parks.

The City is increasing the Park budget, exploring sponsorship opportunities for signage and amenities, and enabling off-leash area users to contribute to desired improvements to ‘their’ parks.

San Diego, California

The city currently offers a great number of off-leash areas, including thousands of acres of ‘wild’ parks, along with a combination of partially seasonal parks – adjusted to the school year – and 24-hour parks.

The Park Planning and Development Division of the Parks and Recreation Department has a mechanism by which citizens can lobby to establish a leash-free park or add amenities to an existing park. This lobbying mechanism includes a public process for input and evaluation from dog owners and community members.

Animal Control officers have canvassing units that ‘work’ neighbourhoods to encourage licensing.

San Francisco, California

This city currently offers a combination of dedicated and shared-use off-leash areas.

After four years of study and public discussion, as well as a review of the programs being conducted in other U.S. cities, a report from the San Francisco Regional Park District, dated September 11, 2006, concluded “...that ‘timed use’ is a viable management and park use option when the proper conditions for planning, design, management and enforcement are present... as (a) means to supplement dedicated DPAs (Dog Play Areas) in areas where the establishment of dedicated DPAs was not practical due to space and budget considerations.”

The Regional Park District (RPD) now intends to expand the number of timed use Dog Play Areas.

The San Francisco RPD delivers outreach information through signage and brochures distributed at veterinary offices, the SPCA, pet stores, parks, the web and dog owner associations. They also utilize bulletin boards where available to distribute more detailed information; the installation of these boards is a capital cost covered, where possible, by community partnerships.

The user group, SF DOG, provides outreach programs and safety education to children, families, and community gardeners. SF DOG also offers training for dog owners, including ‘petiquette’ and ‘good citizen’ tests.

“Although previous enforcement has been inconsistent, RPD intends to pursue enforcement of all related state and municipal laws. Enforcement will necessitate a multi-agency effort, to include San Francisco Police Department, ACC, and RPD. RPD strongly believe the greatest voice for following established rules and policies will be from Dog Play Area partners and users.”

To this end, the Regional Park District engages Dog Play Area support groups to steward their own local parks: “...a template of standard language for every DPA between the Department and an appropriate DPA sponsor group. The template will include RPD and Partner responsibilities, including expectations that partners will:

- Steward DPA to uphold policy standards
- Distribute DPA rules and other educational materials to park users
- Serve as good role models
- Ensure the DPA is kept free of animal feces
- Alert RPD / Advisory Committee to maintenance needs
- Help establish priorities for repair and renovation
- Schedule routine cleanup / workdays as necessary
- Fundraise to support additional amenities based on DPA needs

Failure to meet (the) standards and responsibilities set fourth in the Memorandum of Understanding agreement will subject the DPA to review by the Regional Park District. RPD reserves the right to discontinue activities with any given partnership group.” - San Francisco Final Dog Policy, May 8, 2002

San Francisco has also begun a pilot program to harvest dog waste and convert it to methane. The program uses biodegradable bags deposited in dedicated disposal bins, then harvested with a methane digester. One tonne of dog waste can be processed into 50 gallons of diesel equivalent fuel.

Seattle, Washington

Seattle currently has a limited number of city park areas available to dogs. The City has begun experimenting with bark mulch surfacing in smaller fenced parks.

Similar to the results experienced in New York City, Seattle Police report a decrease in incidents of drug dealing in areas designated for off-leash use by dogs and owners.

d. Shared Vision

With the help of a facilitator, the Task Force developed the following Shared Vision, one that focuses on 'Where do we want to be?', rather than 'How do we get there?'

Our reasoning was this: when we know where we're trying to go, it will become more obvious how best to get there.

The Vision We Share:

- Parks are for everyone.
- Parks are safe and joyous places to be.
- There are special places for people.
- There's a place to enjoy and appreciate dogs in parks.
- Dogs have a place in building community.
- Dog owners are an important part of the solution.
- We live in a caring community in which people respect each other.
- People are behaving responsibly and obeying the law.
- Animal Control Services serves the community as a strong and effective resource.
- We're leading the way in protecting the environment.

Note: See Appendix B for Shared Vision

e. Recommendations

The Mission Statement of the Task Force: To balance the needs and interests of multiple park users, including dog owners and the general public, in a safe and interactive environment.

To deliver on this Mission Statement, the Task Force identified recommendations in four categories: Infrastructure, Management, Education, and Enforcement.

Within these categories, desired outcomes have been agreed upon for both the general public and dog owners, and action-oriented recommendations have been designated high- or medium-priority.

i. INFRASTRUCTURE Recommendations

Desired outcomes for the general public:

There will be more safe places, i.e. where dogs are not permitted

There will be fewer off-leash dogs in on-leash areas

Desired outcomes for dog owners:

There will be more all-day off-leash areas (OLAs)

There will be more amenities in off-leash areas

HIGH PRIORITY Recommendations

1. All off-leash areas (OLAs) are to become full-time OLAs, wherever possible
2. Where limited space, or established pre-existing usage means a system of shared / flex park space is necessary and advisable, consideration must be given to:
 - Existing time and seasonal use patterns
 - Ensuring a minimum area of dedicated, full-time off-leash space to accommodate overflow and / or schedule conflicts
 - Ensuring there is a mechanism in place to monitor, assess, and if necessary, adjust usage and / or any conflicts
 - Ensuring there is a strong dog community involvement in self-policing and stewardship of the park
3. Provide OLAs in a variety of sizes suitable to the needs of each community. More parks closer to home would make it more convenient to fulfill fill the dogs' exercise needs, would encourage the dog owners' sense of community, and would thereby contribute to an increase in responsible dog and dog ownership behaviour.
4. Ensure each community has a minimum of two off-leash areas that are accessible on foot for the majority of the population of that neighbourhood. A maximum of five OLAs should be provided if the population numbers warrant, to avoid over-use of any one park area.
5. The long-term goal: An off-leash area should be within easy walking distance of any residential part of the city.
6. Factor in the criteria of population and dog density (both existing and projected future numbers) when determining the need for additional OLAs in a community.
7. For all new communities, add the criteria that OLAs be provided as part of the community development process.
8. If any current OLAs are closed for any reason, add the criteria that alternative off-leash areas be provided.

i. INFRASTRUCTURE Recommendations *(continued)*

9. Designate Mountain View Cemetery a 'dog free' area.
10. Designate all sand-based sports fields as 'dog free' areas.
11. Ensure some areas and parks are designated 'dog free'.
12. Designate specific beach areas as OLAs, and ensure they are clearly separated from other bathing beach areas.
13. Improve the design of OLAs by clearly defining and marking the boundaries, i.e. with fencing, hedging, signage, etc. appropriate to the park dynamics (*See Appendix C for more Detail*)

MEDIUM PRIORITY Recommendations

1. Where possible, ensure adequate recreational facilities are provided for families with both children and dogs.
2. Provide amenities for dog owners within the OLAs, such as doggie fountains, benches, bulletin boards, doggie bags, etc.
3. Provide more environmentally-friendly ways of disposing of dog waste, including offering biodegradable bags at OLAs, dedicated disposal units, diversion from landfills, composting projects, etc.

(It has been estimated that four percent of landfill content is pet waste. By providing biodegradable bags and appropriate containers for diversion and disposal, this waste could be collected and processed through a central composting facility, such as being done in San Francisco, or harvested via 'micro-sludge' technology into methane fuel. Bags and bag dispensers could be provided through sponsorship partnerships with local pet-related businesses. This program could be expanded to include home cat waste.)

4. Name the off-leash area, to distinguish and further separate it in the minds of all users from the park area it inhabits. Such a distinct identity will be an on-going 'gentle reminder' that parks are to be shared by all.
5. Establish a 'cleaner' and more instantly understood signage strategy, using a three-colour system, i.e. green for OLAs, yellow for on-leash areas, and red for 'dog free' zones. This system should be consistent throughout the city so there can be no confusion and no 'mistakes'.
6. Consider piloting a program where dogs are trained to eliminate 'on command' regardless of OLA status.
7. Consider alternate surfaces for small, high traffic off-leash areas, such as bark mulch, wood chips, Zeolite, and decomposed granite).
8. Define levels of service. For example, small, community-oriented OLAs. Larger, shared / flex parks with dedicated full-time off-leash areas included.

Destination dog parks could be promoted as a tourist amenity: Vancouver could capitalize on the trend to bring along the pet when traveling by offering destination parks with amenities that could be accessed on a user-pay, fee-for-use, or membership basis.

ii. MANAGEMENT Recommendations

Desired outcomes for the general public:

There will be better education and services for dog owners, thus ensuring a greater level of leash law compliance.

There will be a commitment to constant and regular review and, when necessary, to refining the strategy to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all park users.

Desired outcomes for dog owners:

There will be better education and services for dog owners, thus ensuring a greater level of leash law compliance.

There will be a commitment to constant and regular review and, when necessary, to refining the strategy to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all park users.

HIGH PRIORITY Recommendations:

1. Ensure that OLAs are a budget line item in the Park Board's Capital Plan to track both off-leash area expenditures and income sources.
2. Ensure 'no net loss' of OLAs, i.e. provide alternate off-leash areas if any current ones are closed for any reason.
3. Clearly establish and communicate that there are not 'off leash parks per se', but rather, off-leash 'areas' within a park. Naming the off-leash area separately will do much to communicate its distinctive character – and implicitly, the responsibilities that go with it – while distinguishing it from the park it inhabits.
4. Review the dog strategy on a regular basis – every three to five years – then formulate and enact recommendations for changes and / or improvements.
5. Foster partnership agreements with the dog-owning community to assist in supervision and caring for off-leash areas, in consultation for OLA improvements, and for education / training / events at the OLAs.
6. Explore a variety of alternative funding sources to support upgrading the OLAs. Keeping within the Parks Board mandate, these sources could include donations, sponsorships, fees for commercial dog walkers who use the parks, etc.
7. Encourage the private sector to expand the provision of spaces, services and education programs to support a responsible dog owning community.
8. The pet industry is a growing, thriving and profitable business sector in this city. Private partnerships and sponsorship opportunities for everything from fencing to doggie 'adventure playgrounds', and to waste bags and bag dispensers would do much to cover the cost of providing the necessary off-leash infrastructure.

ii. MANAGEMENT Recommendations *(continued)*

MEDIUM PRIORITY Recommendations:

1. Assign a portion of all dog licensing fees to the Park Board (from the City) to pay for maintenance / upgrades to the off-leash areas.
2. Establish a signage strategy that is cleaner, more instantly understood, and is consistent throughout the city. This strategy could adopt a three-colour system: green indicates an OLA; yellow means 'on leash area', and red means a 'dog free' area.
3. Work with other governments and private agencies to identify and establish OLAs on non-Park Board land.
4. Apply for funding to research and pilot projects of dog (and pet) waste management.

iii. EDUCATION Recommendations

Desired outcomes for the general public:

Dog owners will be better educated about their responsibilities

There will be fewer off-leash dogs in on-leash areas

Desired outcomes for dog owners:

The public will be better educated about dogs

There will be fewer confrontations between user groups

HIGH PRIORITY Recommendations

1. Develop and implement a media campaign to educate all user groups about the changes to off-leash programs, how to identify OLAs, and where to go for a 'dog free' park area.
2. Develop and implement a public education program that focuses on dog-related issues, such as how to complain about an unruly dog, how to report suspected dog abuse, etc.
3. Establish an elementary school program that teaches the children dog safety, using the Calgary program as a model. The intent of the program would be to ensure that all children are taught how to behave safely around dogs, including what to do if he / she is unsure if a dog is friendly or not.

It would be similar to the well-established (and proven effective) 'Don't talk to strangers' and 'Look both ways' street safety programs.

Public Health Agency of Canada research has revealed that the highest percentage of dog bites happen to five- to nine-year- old boys, and that more than 80% of biting incidents occur in private homes or private yards, not in parks. (Source: Injuries Associated with Dog Bites and Dog Attacks - CHIRPP [Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program] Injury Reports - Public Health Agency of Canada, 1996)

Although of course, our primary concern is to reduce the number of biting incidents that occur in public parks, the education program would also help reduce the number of times children and particularly young boys are bitten at their own home or at the neighbour's.

4. Continue and enhance education initiatives, including the benefits of dog licensing, the benefits of obedience training, the need to comply with bylaws, dealing with dog waste, and the necessity of safeguarding the general public.

However, given that most dog owners are fully aware of the practical limitations of enforcement – and know they're not likely to be caught with an unlicensed pet - the education effort should be directed at what it means to be a responsible citizen.

5. Foster partnership agreements with the dog owning community to assist with OLA education / training / dog events.

iii. EDUCATION Recommendations

MEDIUM PRIORITY Recommendations

1. Offer mini 'fun dog' training programs in the off-leash areas in such 'subjects' as dog dancing, silly dog tricks, etc. Consider employing the 'star power' of home-grown celebrities, such as dog expert, Stanley Coren, to help deliver the education message.
2. Install a covered bulletin board in all off-leash areas that can be used to pass on information of interest to dog owners, including special programs offered in the community, Park Board training courses, and City bylaws.
3. Encourage Animal Control Services to offer licensing discounts for obedience-trained dogs. Similar to a 'safe driver's discount', these incentives would be offered to owners who can prove their dog has successfully completed basic obedience school.
4. Provide opportunities for people who are unfamiliar with dogs as pets – or perhaps have had an unfortunate experience with a particular dog and as a result, are leery of anything on four legs that barks! – to meet and interact with dogs in a sponsored and safe 'park fair' environment. Provide simple translation services and flyers for new Canadians.

iv. ENFORCEMENT Recommendations

Desired outcomes for the general public:

There will be fewer conflicts

There will be fewer off-leash dogs in on-leash of dog free areas

Desired outcomes for dog owners:

There will be more enforcement directed at owners of unruly dogs in the off-leash areas

Dog licensing will be easier, and will be seen as offering a meaningful, tangible benefit

HIGH PRIORITY Recommendations

1. Establish and promote 3-1-1 reporting of all dog issues so these incidents can be clearly monitored and directed. Implement a system by which problem owners, particular locations and times offenses are occurring can be readily identified, and appropriate resources dispatched to deal with these situations immediately.
2. Work with Animal Control officers to identify and focus on the five to 10 percent of dog owners who are habitually problematic.
3. Expand the involvement of the Park Board staff in educating dog owners about the need to comply with City bylaws, including –and especially – the leash laws.
4. Make it easier to obtain and renew a dog license by having all licenses expire on the one-year anniversary of the date of purchase of the license, rather than by regions, as is the current system. Furthermore, licenses could be available at Parks Board community centres, pet stores, veterinary offices, etc.
5. Establish a six-month training program during which Animal Control officers are a visible presence in the OLAs, educating dog owners whose pets are not licensed, and selling them licenses ‘on the spot’.

Follow this training program with an enforcement program whereby dog owners whose pets are not licensed are ticketed and required to get one.

6. Expand the involvement of Park Board staff and Animal Control officers in providing more enforcement of individuals who do not comply with bylaws. Support their efforts by implementing specific bylaw information campaigns focusing on licensing, leash rules at Parks Board-identified trouble spots, cleaning up dog waste, etc.

iv. ENFORCEMENT Recommendations *(continued)*

7. Engage the dog-owning community as partners to act as stewards of the off-leash areas.

Under the auspices and direction of the City, grass roots community groups of civic-minded dog owners should be encouraged to care for and clean up neighbourhood OLAs and 'dog patches'. Such groups could also liaise with community police offices to perform block watch-type duties, as well as organize themselves to 'self police' other dog owners.

Engaging the dog-owning population will encourage community spirit and promote good will, mutual respect and cooperation. It will encourage owners who WANT to be part of responsible management of their neighbourhood and their parks.

Currently, many owners feel their help and opinions are not welcome. The majority of Task Force members believe dog owners WANT to be part of the solution to Vancouver's dog-related issues –and owners are ready, willing and able to work at finding, implementing, and maintaining this solution .

MEDIUM PRIORITY Recommendations

1. Implement a campaign to increase the rate of dog licensing by offering owner incentives, such as 'dog starter' kits with donated products from sponsors, perhaps including doggy bags, trial dog food, doggie treats, bandannas, complimentary name tags, and an educational package of information about bylaws and OLAs.
2. Adopt a 'value added' model for dog licensing. In recognizing that most non-compliant dog owners do not license their pets because they see it as a 'cash grab' offering little or no value to themselves – especially if they are normally law-abiding citizens with well-behaved dogs – providing some meaningful incentive might significantly increase compliance.

For example:

- Signage that clearly states that dog recreation facilities are FOR LICENSED DOGS ONLY
 - Remind owners that, in addition to lost dog retrieval and services to strays, licensing gives owners a louder 'voice' in dog issues.
 - And, if implemented, remind owners that licensing revenues support their dog-friendly parks.
3. In the light of the currently low rate of licensing compliance, consider offering an amnesty program: perhaps a free 'introductory' license for one year.

Such a program might help Animal Control Services improve compliance through renewal letters. After all, the names and addresses will be on record as a result of the 'free' license, and a renewal notice personally addressed arriving in the mailbox is much harder to ignore than a general 'You outta do it' campaign that targets every dog owner in town!)

An amnesty, 'one year free' program could result in significantly increased revenues for Animal Control Services. And of course, it would be a very good start on a reliable and current database for future outreach and education efforts.

f. Outstanding Items specifically requested by the Vancouver Parks Board

On May 15, 2006, the Park Board requested that the Task Force also review the following site-specific proposals:

- Extending the hours of the dog off-leash areas at CRAB Park at Portside from morning (6am to 10 am) and evening (5 pm to 10 pm) times only, to all day (6 am to 10 pm);
- Designating a new dog off-leash area at Creekside Park;
- Designating a new dog off-leash area at Devonian Harbour Park; and
- Designating a new dog off-leash area in Stanley Park (east of Second Beach).

A majority (five of seven) of the members of the Task Force believe that all off-leash areas should be designated FULL TIME off-leash.

However, where sharing the park space is necessary and advisable, a minimal area should be designated full time off-leash.

Moreover, the majority of members believes that all three areas (Creekside, Devonian Harbour and Stanley Park / east of Second Beach) should have the proposed new off-leash areas approved and designated.

g. Conclusion

This report was prepared by the majority of members of the Task Force, working together to find a balance to the ‘turf’ issues now disrupting enjoyment of Vancouver’s parks.

From the beginning of our work, we recognized that compromise would be essential – by ALL sides in the dog-related issues – if solutions were to be found that would ensure the parks would once again be the ‘happy’ places we all think they should be.

There should be no ‘winners’ and no ‘losers’ in this debate: there’s room enough to include and welcome all who care about our parks and green spaces, and want to enjoy, protect, maintain and sustain them.

During the course of our work, we consulted with literally hundreds of citizens, and received input from hundreds more. Their comments – and suggested compromise solutions - have been incorporated into this strategy, and we believe, deserve careful consideration.

This report is the basis for consensus, for a compromise that accommodates all stakeholders and concerns in the dog-in-parks issues that have ‘dogged’ the City of Vancouver for years.

We believe that, with the help of hundreds of our fellow citizens, we have found a compromise that reflects our city’s new realities, that respects the rights and accommodates the needs and wishes of all parties, and that ensures we all have a share in the good life here.

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities

CITY NAME	Arlington County, (suburb of Washington DC)
CITY POPULATION	200,000 (2006 est.)
CITY SIZE	26sq mi
DOG POPULATION	n/a
AMOUNT OF PARK AREA	1,296 acre of park
NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS	7 OLAS, all in shared parks
LICENSED DOG POP.	n/a cost: \$10 w. discount for 3year purchase avail at vets and shelter
PROHIBITED AREA	
DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dog parks are referred to as: "Community Canine Areas (CCA)" - Parents must be in control of their children at all times. - No food is allowed within boundaries of a CCA. - No one (1) handler may bring in more than three (3) dogs at a time. - Handlers shall not allow their dogs to bark on a continuous or frequent basis. It is unlawful for any person who owns, possesses or harbors a dog to permit that dog to create a frequent or continued noise disturbance across a real property boundary or within a nearby dwelling unit. (County Code) <p>- When off their owner's property, all dogs in Arlington must be leashed and under control of the owner or another responsible person. The only exception to this law is if the dog is in a county-sanctioned, off-lead dog exercise area.</p>
SIGNAGE	
BOUNDARIES	Dog walkers and owners are encouraged to utilize Community Canine Areas (CCA) and are reminded that each of the locations do not include the entire park. The designated dog exercise areas are specific, clearly posted parcels of land within the individual parks in which they are located.
SURFACE	<p>Arlington County Parks and Recreation are pioneers in dog parks and surfacing since the 80's. OLAs are comprised of grass, mulch, woodchips and decomposed granite</p> <p><i>Arlington County, in Northern Virginia, began its affair with dog parks in the mid 1980s with the opening of the Utah Park dog area—a 12,000-square-foot, fenced-in, primarily dirt ground abutting a park. Utah Park's dog area was originally grass, but because of constant wear on the surface, it soon became barren. The county parks department tried to resod the area, but the constant traffic tore up the grass.</i></p> <p><i>"Finding the appropriate surface is the toughest thing," says Howard Hudgins, Arlington County Parks Service Area manager. "It's just not possible with public maintenance funds." When it came time to decide on a surface for the dog area, the Parks Department gave the surrounding community a choice between stone dust or mulch. The residents chose the former, and the department covered the surface with about four inches of the compacted decomposed granite, which looks like chunky, damp sand, but refuses to absorb rain. (Nor does it retain the smell of dog urine.)</i></p> <p><i>The new surface was successful for the dog area, and Arlington County soon added several more dog parks within its various districts. Now it has seven dog parks, ranging from two and one-half acres in size to its smallest dog area—the Utah Park dog area. Utah Park also happens to be the only one with the decomposed granite surface, because it is the only one that is level enough to spread the stone dust around.</i></p> <p><i>The other parks are composed of mulch, grass and wood chips, because they have too many hills for the gravel-like texture to be used. "It's cheap, and mulch will stay put on a gentle slope," Hudgins says, adding that if decomposed granite is used, a proper drainage system must be installed prior to topping; otherwise the stone dust might get caught in the drainage basin causing flooding after a rain. "It's really important to fix your drainage before you put any surface down," he says. http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentid=1022</i></p>
HOURS	generally sunrise to sunset, no shared time parks
WASTE	concerns over storm run-off contamination of nearby watershed, has prompted volunteer-run community dog group to conduct regular "sweeps" of OLAs
ENFORCEMENT	Violations of the leash law, pooper-scooper law and running at large law can result in a summons to appear in court and a fine of \$100.00.
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks and Recreation offer dog training classes - ArlingtonDogs, County and the 4H developed a program called "Safe Kids/Safe Dogs"
PROGRAMS	<p>1. Park Board has an annual month long "Park Safe" program "...increasing the enforcement of laws that prohibit drinking, using fireworks or otherwise disturbing the peace, harassing wildlife and pets, and other inappropriate behavior in public parks. This should help with some "happy hour" problems and harassment of their dogs that dog park visitors have noted and reported to authorities. Dog park visitors should also be aware that enforcement will include cracking down on leash law violations. Please remember that if your dog is in a public area outside a CCA, he or she MUST be on-leash. It's not just a matter of being a good neighbor, it's the law!"</p> <p>2. Park Board works with a community group "Arlingondogs" which is volunteer run and advocate for OLAs - in turn ADogs have provided labour and funds towards park improvement including: "a project to mitigate streambed erosion near Glen Carlyn CCA. The proposal is the only streambed project submitted to small parks grant this year, and will help all down stream residents of the Four Mile Run stream, as well as by helping improve water quality all residents of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed"</p>
LINKS	<p>http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/dogs/ParksRecreationScriptsDogsDogRuns.aspx</p> <p>http://www.arlingtondogs.org/</p> <p>http://www.awla.org/arlington-dogs.shtml</p>
DATA ENTERED BY:	Pete
NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Washington DC itself is far too confusing with its myriad of state, federal and overlapping municipal governments and parks - suburb Arlington has been a leader in dog parks and pioneered several surfacing considerations - "Arlingondogs" was created in part as a result of physical and verbal assaults on dogs and owners - one contentious issue includes the numerous historical sites in the area, and objection to dog park fencing, desecration of graves and general historic preservation - environmental concerns regarding soil erosion and fecal waste entering watershed via creeks and rivers. "ADog" volunteer crews seep for uncollected waste and proved education on water quality - summertime brings an increased amount of crime and vagrancy to the area and dog owners are requested to be vigilant in reporting questionable characters, etc. to authorities.

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Burnaby
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	197,292
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	98.6 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	28,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	2,226 ha
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	4 (1 of those is seasonal)
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	4,913
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	no dogs on beaches or Picnic areas, plus others (playgrounds, etc)
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	They are looking into Calgary's enforcement model
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	City of Calgary
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	1,060,300
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	789 Km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Est. 100,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	Total parks 3400
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	330+ off leash areas
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	95-96%
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	School grounds during school day, playgrounds, sports fields, golf courses, cemeteries, wading/swimming pools
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Leash no longer than 2 m, remain on the right side of pathways, cannot leave unattended, no dogs at Prince's Island park on Canada Day or Heritage Day, no dogs on leashes if owner on bike, skateboard, inline skates or non-motorized scooters, must be on leash 20m from playgrounds, schools
<i>SIGNAGE</i>	Off leash signage is black letters on white board with green line through a dog in a circle, the green implying it's OK to let your dog be off leash
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	By signage
<i>HOURS</i>	24/7
<i>WASTE</i>	They are currently working on a plan to have all parks armed with receptacles and poop bags
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Off leash area's determined by community involvement. If there is a discrepancy, then the park signage is correct. Bill Bruce, director of Animal & Bylaw Services says that dogs properly socialized at off-leash parks are "rarely involved in an incident". Which means they don't bite people, don't get into fights, etc. He also says they are so easy to catch if they get loose. "We just call their name, say 'want a cookie?', and they jump happily into our van. We don't have to chase or trap them. And if they're licenced - and almost all dogs in Calgary are - we usually drive them home. If not, we call the owner and tell him/her to come and pick the dog up."
<i>EDUCATION</i>	
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	Privately sponsored annual park clean ups that clean dog and people waste in every off leash park that then have a BBQ with prizes for dogs and owners. Community events such as Doddy Do Days at River park and Southland
<i>LINKS</i>	
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill
<i>NOTES</i>	

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	City of Seattle
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	4,000,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	369 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	150,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	397
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	11
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	22%
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Beaches (some dog friendly beach areas), playgrounds, sports fields
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	No food near dogs, no dogs in heat allowed in OLA's, max 8 foot leashes, puppies less than 4 months at owners risk, no pinch or choke collars, must be licensed and vaccinated
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	Fenced, range in size from 1/4 acre (Regrade Park) to 9+ acres (Magnuson Park)
<i>SURFACE</i>	Small sites don't work well with grass, larger sites fence off grass areas to heal or be reseeded. Newer sites experimenting with bark on the ground
<i>WASTE</i>	On site containers
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	Each OLA has a dedicated Park Steward to liaise between COLA and the Parks Dept to work on maintaining and improving OLA's.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill
<i>NOTES</i>	Outside Seattle (Redmond) they have Marymoor Park (44 acres) offleash that is a destination area for dog owners. There are some stats from the police indicating an improvement in decreasing drug dealers in Regrade Park after it became an off leash area

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Coquitlam
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	113,498
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	152.5 km ² Density 755 /km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Unknown
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	930 - 1,200 hectares. exact amount to be confirmed
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	4
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	Waiting for response
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Waiting for response
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Moved to centralized enforcement 5 years ago and this has increased access to resources. (e.g. centralized unit for parking bylaws, dog bylaws, etc). "You can't convince all people about the virtues of leashing their dog. Some folks just need to feel like it's going to cost them unless they comply, and that's the only way they'll do it."
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Delta
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	102,655 Density 282/km ²
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	364 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Waiting for info
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	660 ha (not including Burns Bog)
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	Reduced to 0. Had 3 pilots in 2004.
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	Delta Humane society 604-940-7111
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Waiting for info
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Edmonton
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	1,080,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	583.33 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	est 90,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	460
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	40+
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	61%
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Must be 10 metres from playgrounds, schools, sports fields. Band from picnic areas, park buildings and facilities, golf courses and off trail outside of off leash boundaries and off trail inside community league parks, and any trail less than .5m wide
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	2m leash length, must be vaccinated, dogs must be able to respond to voice and signal commands
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	Site monitors for each park, annual site cleanup efforts by private community
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Kelowna
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	109,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	262 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	25-30,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	180
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	51 combined, 5 designated as off leash
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	33-50% estimate
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	10m from playgrounds, some trails and walkways in some parks, dogs are not permitted on grass or in any water in some areas - kind of confusing here as I don't know the area they keep referring to
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Must be trained to obey commands, licensed, vaccinated, ensure their dogs don't bother other park users, leash no longer than 2 m
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	Most are fenced with a 5' wire fence. There is an issue about no access for wheelchairs
<i>SURFACE</i>	natural with woodchips at entrance where heavy traffic
<i>HOURS</i>	full time
<i>WASTE</i>	Bag dispensers are located at entrances and in larger fenced areas. Bag dispensers stocked by private group working with city for more off leash areas.
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	There is a private group, Okanagan Dog Owners Ass'n (okdog.com) that works for more access to parks that has a Parks for Paws program that has at least one person for each area to monitor the site, refill the bag dispensers and schedule volunteer clean ups
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Miami-Dade County
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	2,376,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	242 sq mi there are 35 individual incorporated cities and municipalities within the county, including some that are private, gated communities
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	n/a
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	n/a
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	11 county, 2 Miami City 2 Miami Beach City and at least two dozen official, private and "unofficial" dog parks, including beaches and swamps
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	n/a fees: \$20-25/\$32-35 reduced to \$1/\$2 for income assistance
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	most beaches, playgrounds, private property, due to alligator risk - swamp "park" areas are at own risk
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	dog licenses are readily available at vet offices as well as numerous community offices called "Team Metro" (offering a variety of city services, located throughout the region). Low income people are eligible for special discounts There are quite a few "dog beaches" that are frequented by people and dogs, attendant lifeguard/rangers check for dog "beach permits" or special weekend passes (\$20-40 and \$5 respectively). Quite a few "bark parks" require membership to attend. They have different pricing schemes from day passes to annual passes, with senior's discounts and family plans available. Parks are dedicated with a variety of amenities and attendant staff.
<i>SIGNAGE</i>	- freely provided dog-doo bags offer full-colour advertising / sponsorship opportunities
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	- fenced, most w. double doors, some also employ landscaping. - some parks offer separate areas for small/shy dogs
<i>HOURS</i>	- differ from location to location
<i>WASTE</i>	- freely provided dog-doo bags offer full-colour advertising / sponsorship opportunities
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	- failure to pick up results in \$50 fine for first offence, \$200 per additional per calendar year (exception for blind) - \$150 fine for unlicensed - \$150 fine for at large off leash - \$ 50 for nuisance - \$500 / 60 days animal cruelty - Pit Bull ban: \$500 fine + court-enforced removal from county
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	-dog doo bags are provided free, and are printed with full colour advertising to offset costs -"bark parks" offer double gated doors, skill and training equipment, drinking fountains - Aventura City, Ft. Lauderdale and a few other cities offers disposable cardboard "scooper" - spay / neuter programs are avail free to all residents - Animal Service offer a mobile clinic / truck that offers community outreach, shots, spay/neuter and sells licenses
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Pete

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Nanaimo
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	80,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	88.19 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	12,000-15,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	22 in city, 115+ in region
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	3 plus trail areas
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	50-56%
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Playgrounds, beaches May-Sept
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Maximum of 2 dogs/person in the off leash area
<i>HOURS</i>	Full time
<i>WASTE</i>	
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated to use off leash program, owners must be in attendance with their dogs at all times and have a visible leash, dogs must be on leash prior to entering and upon leaving the off leash area, owners personally liable for any damage or injury inflicted by their dog
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill
<i>NOTES</i>	the program is subcontracted out to a private company

<i>CITY NAME</i>	New York City (incl. the 5 boroughs)
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	8,143,197
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	469 sq mi
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	1,000,000 (est.)
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	n/a Parks & Recreation controls 29,000 acres which includes stadiums, monuments, courts, pools, traffic islands, meridians, etc.1800 athletic fields and playgrounds, Central Park
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	45 incl. at least 2 beaches also, numerous private (membership-based) facilities
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	102,004 (2003)obtaining dog licenses: Call 311 or download from web site. You may also obtain one from a veterinarian, animal shelter or pet shop. costs: \$8.50 / \$11.50
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	playground, zoo, bathing [facilities] facility, beach, pool, bridle path, fountain, ballfield, basketball court, tennis court,
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	- "Because dog owners have few places to exercise their dogs off-leash in the City's urban environment and dogs tend to become better socialized when they are allowed to recreate off-leash, Parks has been following a limited policy for the last twenty (20) years that allows dogs to be unleashed in certain portions of parks between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. ("Courtesy Hours"). The proposed amendment to Section 1-04(i) will simply codify the Courtesy Hours by converting the policy into a rule." (* this is currently going through public hearings, applicable to licensed dogs only)- in light on density and limited greenspace, NYC has pioneered concept of "dog runs" - dedicated smaller parks exclusively for off-leash activities. Community and corporate sponsorship are routinely encouraged to supplement the dept's financial contributions. - in light of extremely low lic. compliance, despite the relatively low fee - some are suggesting actually paying dog owners to license their dogs, then conducting random street checks with much more vigorous enforcement. - further to that, a proposal to DNA test all dogs (in conjunction with licensing) and subsequently allow identification of uncollected turds and appropriate fines to the dog owners.
<i>SIGNAGE</i>	"If You're Not Responsible Enough To Clean Up After Your Dog, You Don't Deserve To Own One."
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	dedicated OLAs are fenced
<i>SURFACE</i>	Zeolite (hydrated alumino-silicate minerals, a naturally formed by product of volcanic rock and ash, used in water purification) "zeolite is so holistic and organic that it is also used as a food supplement. It is a natural antioxidant that will deodorize the run for years and provide smooth footing for the dogs paws -- a much better alternative to gravel and pebbles seen in other dog runs." Zeolite is the latest-greatest, other parks employ dirt, mulch, crushed gravel and turf
<i>HOURS</i>	differ park to park for OLAs, however all parks excepting prohibited areas are OLA between 9pm and 9am which are referred to as "courtesy hours"
<i>WASTE</i>	NYC was one of first communities to introduce pooper-scooper law (1978)The Parks Department says that dog poop accounts for 20 percent of its "cleanliness failures." bags are provided by city in OLA and applicable parks
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	unleashed in prohibited areas, or out-of control dogs may be seized
<i>EDUCATION</i>	The NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene offers: through their Veterinary Public Health Services, Education and Community Outreach... "Provide printed materials, mailings, and public seminars in collaboration with External Affairs and other Department of Health offices... Teach animal handling courses " - their mandate is to: 1 Prevent the transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals to people 2 Reduce animal nuisances New York Animal Care & Control offers Youth Education Programs including educational classroom visits as well as volunteer programs for at-risk youth.
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	many dog runs offer agility courses and wading pool/dog water fountains and waste bags and disoensers are located throughout the city
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Pete

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	North Vancouver (City of)
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	48,000
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	11.95 km ² Density 3,707 /km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Could not say
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	To be researched
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	1
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	1,136. Estimated 50-60% compliance
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Parks, playgrounds, etc. In 25 (out of 40) parks there are no dogs allowed in summer In winter this changes to 23 parks.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	North Vancouver District
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	82,310
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	160.47 km ² Density 512.9 /km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Unknown but estimate 20% licensing compliance
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	1,110 hectares
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	10
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	5,800 Estimated 20% compliance. Goal of 1000 added per year.
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	No beaches and some parks
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Many complaints about out of control dog walkers, if licensed, get a warning, if not, then fined.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Penticton
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	41,574
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	42.42 km ² Density 730.4 /km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Unknown
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	To be researched
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	1. Fenced in.
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	2,032
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	No beaches. Not on lake promenade in summer, cemetery
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Written warning is recorded, then 2nd time fined Severe problems with off-leash dogs. Estimated 90% lack of compliance with leash laws. 1 Pound officer.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Ottawa
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	877,300
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	2,796 km
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	93,000
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	850 parks
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	Designations are based on the results of the public consultation (quantitative and qualitative) conducted on the proposed designations, as well as an effort to strike a balance between the various designations and their distribution in the respective communities.
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Dogs are prohibited from being within 5 metres of all children's play areas and pools.
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	The fees collected through pet registration helps the City return lost pets to their homes. The fees do not however even come close to recovering the costs associated with administration and enforcement of the Animal Care and Control By-law or the costs of housing stray pets at the municipal animal shelter. Limits on number of Cats/Dogs per household (3 dogs, 5 cats)
<i>SIGNAGE</i>	Signs are posted to inform the public of whether dogs are permitted on or off leash at a particular park.
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	Varies by park (see link for more specific information)
<i>SURFACE</i>	Varies by park (see link for more specific information)
<i>HOURS</i>	Vary by park and season (see link for more specific information)
<i>WASTE</i>	<p>Stoop and Scoop: "Dog waste is a public health hazard, takes the pleasure out of outdoor activities and pollutes the environment. Help improve public opinion of dogs and dog owners - make it a habit to pick up after your dog and to take the waste home to dispose of it on your own premises. The City encourages flushing pet waste down the toilet, as it will be properly treated at the sewage plant. Dog owners can also place the waste in their regular garbage as long as it is properly wrapped in absorbent paper and placed in a sealed, leak proof bag. Failure to pick up after your dog is a by-law offence. Failure to take it home and dispose of it on your own premises is also an offence under the by-law.</p> <p>By-law Services staff is also currently working with Transportation, Utilities and Public Works (TUPW) staff on identifying alternatives and determining costs and feasibility of placing special receptacles for pet waste in parks."</p> <p>The 93,000 dogs in Ottawa produce an estimated 45,000 pounds (20,500 kilograms) of waste per day.</p>
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	<p>Dogs must always be under control, even if a leash is not required.</p> <p>New Dog Owners Liability Act (plus Pit Bull Ban): Charges can be brought against any dog owner whose dog has bitten or attacked or behaved in a manner that poses a menace to the safety of persons or domestic animals or where the dog owner did not exercise reasonable precautions to prevent a dog from doing any of the aforementioned. Fees for registration vary depending on whether the animal is sterilized and/or microchipped. Expire April 30th each year.</p> <p>Cat/Dog - both sterilized and microchipped: Free (can get lifetime registration) Kitten/Puppy - under 6 months of age and microchipped: Free Cat/Dog - sterilized or microchipped but, not both: \$12 Kitten/Puppy - under 6 months of age and not microchipped: \$12 Cat/Dog - neither sterilized nor microchipped: \$25 Service cat/dog: \$Free</p>
<i>EDUCATION</i>	<p>Dog Bite Prevention program for children: Know! Slow! Freeze! Dog Buddies Program: bring dog to schools to educate children.</p>
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	Governed by Dogs-in-Parks Designation Policy (DIPDP). Designates status of particular park.
<i>LINKS</i>	<p>Park by Park breakdown: http://ottawa.ca/city_services/bylaws/violation/animal_care/cats_dogs/dogs/parks/ottawa_en.shtml</p> <p>To view the amended Dog Owners' Liability Act, click on: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90d16_e.htm</p> <p>To view Ontario Regulation 157/05, click on http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/050157_e.htm</p>
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	TJ
<i>NOTES</i>	Each year approximately 350 people are bitten by dogs in the City of Ottawa. Almost one third of these victims are children under the age of 10.

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Port Coquitlam
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	57,563
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	28.79 km ² Density 1,998.48 / km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	Unknown
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	184.2 ha of parkland and natural areas 46 km of trails
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	0
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	138 pound + 2,800 city
<i>EDUCATION</i>	Personal safety & Environmental concerns noted on website
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Port Moody
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	25,000 (2005)
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	26.21 km ² Density 953.83/km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	unknown
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	34 parks
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	1 dog run & 3 offleash areas
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	1200 licensed. Licenses have 3 cost levels: \$22, \$42, , \$310
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Fines were increased in 2006 in terms of 1, 2, and 3rd offense \$100, \$200, \$300.
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	They don't go door to door. Fines the first time or a warning if it is more a mistake, such as dog crossed an off-leash boundary. Enforcement is done by centralized unit for all enforcement issues.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Regina
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	178,225
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	3407 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	278
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	Unknown
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	1
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Dog runs at home must not be within 1m of property line or 5 m from neighbour
<i>HOURS</i>	6am to 11pm
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	bylaw about excessive barking 10pm - 7am
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Sherrill
<i>NOTES</i>	Not really helpful with answers, don't seem to have an issue

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Richmond
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	181,942 (2005) Density: 1,403/km ²
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	129.666 km ²
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	To be researched
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	1,400 ha
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	5
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	To be researched
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Licence costs \$30, \$70, \$200, \$250 with small discount for early birds.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP
<i>NOTES</i>	

<i>CITY NAME</i>	San Diego City
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	1,255,540
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	372.0 sq mi
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	374,732 est.
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	numerous, including thousands of acres of wild parks, Mission Bay alone is almost 5,000 acres *there are also numerous state and country parks within the City limits
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	14-17 including 2 beaches *however, there are also numerous state and country parks some of which are off-leash
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	140,700 (greater county area) costs \$15 / \$50 with discounts for 3-year purchase
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	- numerous wildlife protected areas, lagoons, bird habitats and horse trails - beaches (OLA) except for two designated
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	All people bringing their dogs to leash free areas enter at their own risk and accept full responsibility and liability for their dog's actions. All other park areas with the exception of the Beaches and Mission Bay allow dogs at any time, but they must be on a leash. Owners are always required to clean up after their dogs. All athletic fields and Robb Field: Dogs are not allowed on any athletic field at any time.
<i>SIGNAGE</i>	differ from site to site, include designations of areas, rules, hours and hazards (snakes, poison oak) as applicable All people bringing their dogs to leash free areas enter at their own risk and accept full responsibility and liability for their dog's actions.
<i>BOUNDARIES</i>	some are loosely defined in both large and small parks. some are fenced
<i>SURFACE</i>	turf, mulch, gravel, beach
<i>HOURS</i>	- partially seasonal, with specific adjustment for school year - some 24 hours facilities
<i>WASTE</i>	County Dept. of Public Works warns citizens about stormwater pollutants and encourages residents to dispose of in toilet or trash and discourages them from allowing to accumulate in private yards
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Animal Control officers have canvassing units, that work neighbourhoods to encourage licensing
<i>EDUCATION</i>	
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	Park and Recreation Department's Park Planning and Development Division has a mechanism by which citizens can lobby to establish a leash free park or add amenities to an existing park which include a public process with input and evaluation from dog owners and community members.
<i>LINKS</i>	
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	Pete
<i>NOTES</i>	

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities (continued)

CITY NAME	San Francisco, CA
CITY POPULATION	740,000
CITY SIZE	47 sq mi
DOG POPULATION	120,000 est.
AMOUNT OF PARK AREA	200 + city parks, plus several large state and federal parks
NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS	29 (city parks), 6 (federal / state parks) – approx 117.7 acres in city parks, smallest being .3 acres, largest being 59 acres
LICENSED DOG POP	20,000 (license fees: \$14 / \$26 with discounts for seniors and multiple year licenses)
PROHIBITED AREA	Athletic fields, Tennis/Basketball/Volleyball Courts, Children's Play Areas, Sensitive Habitat Areas (feeding/nesting grounds for significant animal species)
DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES	(for timed / shared use) All park users must be able to access the facility without encountering off leash dogs professional dog walker services require special permits and sliding scale fee schedule prohibited: enter or drink the water of any drinking fountain, lake or pond, except at designated places.
SIGNAGE	Signage that designates "Dogs allowed off leash on this trail (or meadow)", and "Dogs must be on leash" On bag dispensers: Your neighbors and the Recreation and Park Department [RPD] appreciate responsible dog ownership Please: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up and remove dog waste • Leash your dog(s) • Don't leave your dog unattended • Control excessive barking and noise • Prevent digging and destructive behavior • Keep your dog's vaccinations and license current Thank you, Utilize bulletin boards where available for more detailed information. Install bulletin boards as capital dollars are available. Partner with community sponsors to install as gift in place.
BOUNDARIES	Unfenced, so long as reasonably defined in large parks (10-15 acres). Fenced with double gates in smaller parks (0-10acres) <i>"DPA's [Dog Play Areas] require adequate delineation, natural or man-made, to protect dogs from vehicles, steep cliffs, and other hazards as well as to prevent conflicts with other park users. Some fencing will be required to separate adjacent land uses. Where fencing is required it will be 4 feet high. However, to the extent possible RPD will advocate for non-fence alternatives. The boundaries of DPA's will be identified with physical enclosures. All barriers will strive to be aesthetically pleasing using landscape features such as shrubs and vines. Type of barrier, size and location will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Barriers shall be evaluated based upon the following criteria: adjacent site use; size of DPA; active park uses, proximity to [Significant Natural Resource Areas] SNRA; and historic use patterns."</i>
SURFACE	Surface materials will be governed by existing conditions, i.e. turf in meadows and dirt trails. gravel and mulch also used. Studies are being conducted with hardier grasses but there are fears they may prove too invasive
HOURS	<i>Some areas may require seasonal restrictions. These restrictions will be considered along with other park criteria and determined on a case by case basis. After four years of study and public deliberation, as well as reviewing other US cities: "...concluded that timed use is a viable management and park use option when the proper conditions for planning, design, management and enforcement are present. The cities contacted used timed-use off-leash area's as means to supplement dedicated DPA's in areas where the establishment of dedicated DPA's was not practical due to space and budget considerations. "</i> report dated Sept 11, 2006 - RPD now intends to expand timed use.
WASTE	The city has begun a pilot program to harvest dog waste for methane, via bio degradable bags deposited in dedicated disposal bins and the harvested with a methane digester. (one tonne of dog waste can be processed into 50 gallons of deisel equivalent fuel).
ENFORCEMENT	<i>"Although previous enforcement has been inconsistent, RPD intends to pursue enforcement of all related state and municipal laws. Enforcement will necessitate a multi-agency effort to include SFPD, ACC, and RPD. RPD strongly believes the greatest voice for following established rules and policies will be from DPA partners and users. "</i>
EDUCATION	RPD provides outreach information via signage and brochures, distributed via vet offices, SPCA, pet stores, parks, web and dog owner associations. SF DOG (user group) provides outreach programs and safety education to children and families as well as community gardeners. They also supply training for dog owners including "petiquette" and good citizen tests.
PROGRAMS	user group responsibilities and stewardship <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As stated in Sec. 5.3, of the Policy, <i>"RPD strongly believes the greatest voice for following established rules and policies will be from DPA partners and users. " ... to bolster under-available enforcement resources: the RPD has engaged DPA Support Groups "...a template of standard language for every DPA between the Department and an appropriate DPA sponsor group. The template will include RPD and Partner responsibilities including expectations that partners will:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steward DPA to uphold policy standards • Distribute DPA rules and other educational materials to park users • Serve as good role models • Ensure DPA is kept free of animal feces • Alert RPD/Advisory Committee to maintenance needs • Help establish priorities for repair and renovation • Schedule routine cleanup/workdays as necessary • Fundraise to support additional amenities based on DPA needs" ... "Failure to meet standards and responsibilities set forth in the MOU agreement will subject DPA to review by RPD. RPD retains the right to discontinue activities with any given partnership group" 2. DPA Amenities- RPD will provide at a minimum the following amenities: Bag dispensers, Signs , Bench(s), Surface material, Barriers, Boundary Markers • Trash cans (RPD to service) , Lighting (where financially and physically possible & will not adversely affect surrounding areas) 3. in an effort to boost licensing SF recently introduced an option to purchase licenses via vet's office.
DATA ENTERED BY:	Pete
NOTES	from SF Dept. of Recreation and Park (RPD) Dog Play Area Policy: <i>" The Department recognizes the strength and character of the communities that have developed while recreating with a dog. It is the intention of the Department to increase opportunities for these unique communities to develop. We recognize the positive influences these communities bring to neighborhood parks.... Since releasing the draft dog policy on June 12, 2001 the Department has reviewed and considered over 2,700 responses to that document. Nearly 300 staff hours were spent reading, evaluating and incorporating suggestions from the public. While many said they disagree with the policy we found several areas of common ground. Most citizens, whether dog owners or not, like the idea of having designated off leash zones. Most citizens would also like the clean up laws enforced and a majority would like the leash laws enforced. "</i> From RPD policy draft: <i>"The size of a [Dog Play Area] DPA will reflect the amount of available land, dog populations, park size and other considerations (see Section 3.6 DPA Opportunities). Wherever possible, DPA's should be at least 30,000 square feet (equal to approximately 4 tennis courts). The minimum size of a DPA shall be 10,000 square feet, approximately 2,800 square feet larger than a standard tennis court (60' X 120'). "</i> San Francisco intends to invest \$400,000 in dog parks this year alone.

Appendix A Tables of Findings from other Cities *(continued)*

<i>CITY NAME</i>	Stockholm
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	750,000 inner city
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	216 sq km inner city
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	n/a vast majority small dogs as city not seen as an appropriate place for big dogs
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	1/3 of city is parkland
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	exact # not available - called dog rest areas - located in some neighborhoods
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	exact # not available but compliance is very high as unlicensed dogs are seized - all dogs must have their license number tattooed inside their ear
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	any place where food is sold or served (exception blind people's guide dogs), not dogs on beaches June 1 - August 31
<i>DIFFERENT & INTERESTING RULES</i>	Swedes are very concerned about the environment - dogs are not allowed to chase wildlife - even in dog rest (off-leash) areas. Special consideration is given to wildlife March 1 - August 31, to protect wild animal's breeding environments.
<i>WASTE</i>	Zero tolerance for not picking up dog poop. It works. Stockholm is a very clean city and no dog poop found on sidewalks or in parks.
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	Swedes are very strict about enforcing the rules. For instance, they will seize your dog if it is unlicensed.
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	EW

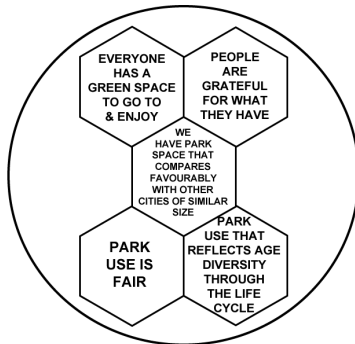
<i>CITY NAME</i>	Surrey
<i>CITY POPULATION</i>	347,825 Density 1,095/km2
<i>CITY SIZE</i>	317.4 km2
<i>DOG POPULATION</i>	could be 40,000 - guesstimate.
<i>AMOUNT OF PARK AREA</i>	1,769.98 ha
<i>NUMBER / SIZE OF OLAS</i>	6 off-leash parks
<i>LICENSED DOG POP.</i>	20,586
<i>PROHIBITED AREA</i>	Creeks and streams "where dogs can cause significant erosion and destruction of fish habitat." Other areas - playgrounds, playing fields, waterparks
<i>ENFORCEMENT</i>	SPCA does all impounding - "reasonably often" Door to door campaigns to get licenses - ongoing.
<i>EDUCATION</i>	On their website asks dog owners to: "Show respect for other park users. Not everyone is comfortable with dogs so don't allow your pet to approach others unless invited. Families, cyclists, joggers and bird watchers all have the right to enjoy our safe, clean parks." "Leashing is the best way to prevent injury to your pet due to fights with other dogs."
<i>PROGRAMS</i>	
<i>LINKS</i>	http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Parks+and+Recreation/Parks+and+Environment/Park+Management+Issues/Dogs+in+Parks.htm
<i>DATA ENTERED BY:</i>	AP
<i>NOTES</i>	Websites states environmental concerns: "Prevent dogs from harassing wildlife or damaging sensitive habitat. Natural wetlands and streams are particularly vulnerable to damage by dogs."

Appendix B Shared Vision Table

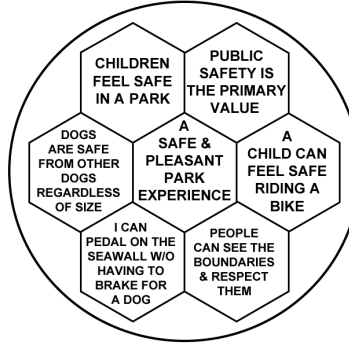


Dog Strategy Task Force Shared Vision of the Future

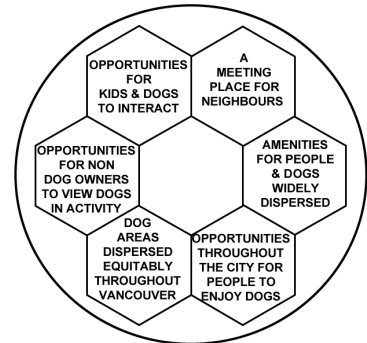
PARKS ARE FOR EVERYONE



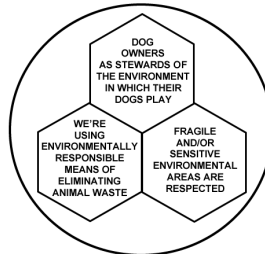
PARKS ARE SAFE & JOYOUS PLACES TO BE



DOGS HAVE A PLACE IN BUILDING COMMUNITY



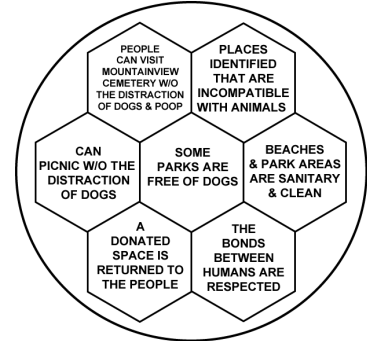
WE'RE LEADING THE WAY IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



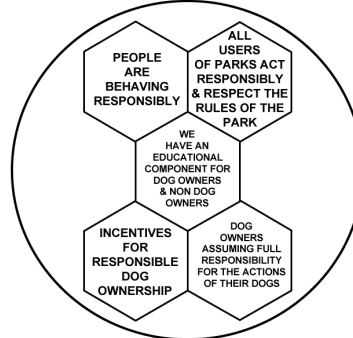
THERE'S A PLACE TO ENJOY & APPRECIATE DOGS IN PARKS



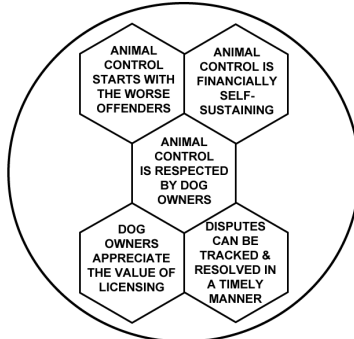
THERE ARE SPECIAL PLACES FOR PEOPLE



PEOPLE ARE BEHAVING RESPONSIBLY



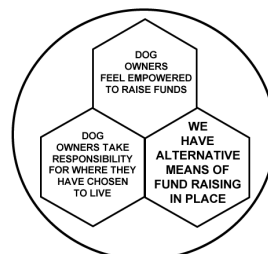
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVES THE COMMUNITY AS A STRONG & EFFECTIVE RESOURCE



PEOPLE OBEY THE LAW



DOG OWNERS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOLUTION



Appendix C Sample Vision of OLA's

Whereas recreating with one's dog is a legitimate park activity - and responsible ownership can provide net societal benefits; from physical and mental health to crime prevention and community safety.

From a Task Force visioning exercise – an OLA vision, in point form and no particular order:

- **DOG TOILET AREA:** At a minimum, all parks - regardless of leash or off-leash status should provide a “dog patch”. An area specifically set aside for dogs where they can ‘do their business’ and appropriate facilities and amenities are provided: including waste bins, bags, dispensers and specialized “gazebo” covered signs. These areas would be appropriately landscaped with hardy shrubs and grasses and alternate surface like bark mulch and Zeolite.

- **MORE OFF LEASH AREAS:** Currently, the city's dog population would seem to be expanding faster than the city and parks can accommodate their needs, leading to inappropriate use of non-OLAs and confrontation. More parks closer by would fulfil dog's exercise needs and dog owners' sense of community. Future OLAs need not be necessarily large, in fact urban centres like Seattle and New York have successfully introduced “micro” OLAs, some the size of a city lot.

- **BUILDING COMMUNITY:** Under the auspices of the city, grass roots community groups of civic minded dog owners to be encouraged to care for and clean up neighbourhood OLAs and dog patches. Groups could also liaise with community police offices for block watch type duties as well as organize “self-police” other dog owners. Engaging the dog owning population would theoretically encourage community spirit, and promote good will - encouraging owners to WANT to be part of their neighbourhood and parks in a responsible manner - as opposed to outlaws and pariahs as many are made to feel today.

- **OBEDIENCE DISCOUNT:** Like a safe-driver's discount owners that can prove their dog's level of obedience should be eligible for a licensing discount

- **ENFORCEMENT:** Given the critical budget shortage for police services already and the fact that Vancouver has such a high crime rate - it would be unrealistic to expect any real change in police enforcement effort without significant investment.

With these practical limitations in mind a “hotline” that citizens can call and register complaint (with instructions to identify dog, nature of complaint, time of day, etc.) could be used to compile data and used for localized “blitzes” where animal control officer (with police back-up) could target problem areas.

- **EDUCATING PUBLIC:** Many children and new Canadians have little experience with dogs and may have preconceived notions, fears or emotional baggage from past encounters. More of an effort needs to be made to reach out and educate the public about appropriate behaviour around dogs, how to react to an aggressive dog, etc. Basic safety instruction.

- **EDUCATING DOG OWNERS:** Given that most dog owners are cognisant of the practical limitations of enforcement, more of an effort needs to be made towards education and what it means to be a responsible citizen - first and foremost with regard to picking up dog waste (identifying health hazards, water and stream contamination and general polite behaviour).

Program also to include basic obedience, training tips

- **OFF SEASON PARK USE:** Many of the city's parks and for much of the year are unused by anybody but dogs and their owners and become de facto OLAs. We should consider some means of legitimizing this seasonal use when and where appropriate.

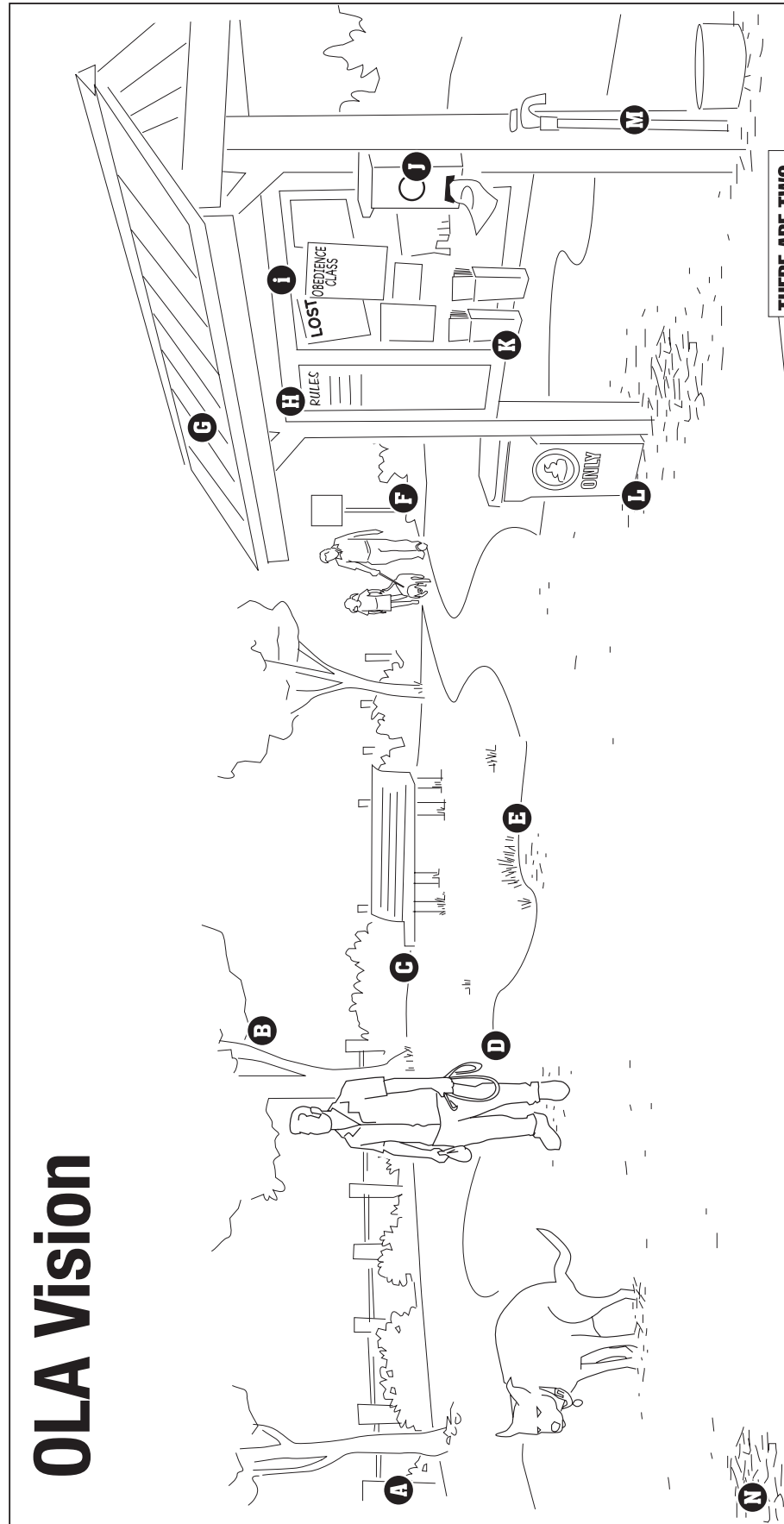
- **DOG PLAY FACILITIES:** Adventure playgrounds for dogs - could be constructed by city, user groups or sponsors

- **FENCING:** Many if not all OLAs would benefit from fencing. Double “air lock gates”

- **DOG WASTE DISPOSAL:** Given that an estimate 4% of our landfill is pet waste, and Vancouver likes to present itself as eco-friendly, this is something we must do. Providing biodegradable bags and appropriate containers for disposal - the waste could then be collected and processed through a central composting facility or (like San Francisco) harvested via “microsludge” technology into methane fuel. Bags and bag dispensers could be sponsored by local pet related business. Program could be expanded to include home cat waste.

- **SPONSORSHIP:** Pets are a huge business and a growing interest in this city. Private partnerships and sponsorship/advertising opportunities for everything from fencing to doggie adventure playgrounds to waste bags and bag dispensers could subsidize much of the necessary infrastructure.

Appendix C Sample Vision of OLA's (continued)

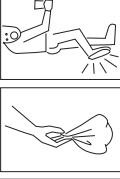


OLA Vision

- A** Perimeter delineated by fencing, shrubbery, etc
- B** Trees as shade, privacy and border
- C** Park Furniture (and/or dog 'playground' equipment)
- D** Owners must pick-up and have leash at ready
- E** Hardy grass
- F** Entrance signage to "dog patch" (note dog on leash)
- G** Covered 'gazebo' sign - for neighbourhood dog community
- H** Rules
- I** Bulletin Board for dog community (public notices, clean-up)

- K** Parks Board educational pamphlets, designed to encourage responsible ownership, etc.
- L** Dedicated dog waste disposal (for composting)
- M** Watersource for drinking, cleanup
- N** Alternate surfacing for ease of pick-up (ie. bark mulch, lava rock, crushed gravel, etc)

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A LEAVER



TEACH YOUR DOG TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

FIVE EASY STEPS TO TEACHING YOUR PUPPY WHEN AND WHERE TO DO THEIR BUSINESS.

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Dr. Stanley Cohen

Appendix D City Bylaw Report

By-Laws

Owning a pet is a joy, but it's also a big responsibility. There are a few basic by-laws dog owners in the City of Vancouver must follow.

Animal Control By-laws:

#9150 Sec. 3.1

Dog Licences

A person must not keep a dog that is older than three (3) months unless such person has acquired an annual licence for the dog, and has paid the annual licence fee.

Fees

Licence Fees:

Male or female dog \$65.00

Neutered male or spayed female \$35.00

(Note: Proof of neutering/spaying is required for first time applications)

Unlicensed Dog Impound Fees

Unlicensed Dog \$150.00 (Plus licence fee)

Unlicensed aggressive dog \$350.00 (Plus licence fee)

Licensed Dog Impound Fees:

Regular impound \$75.00

Aggressive dog impound \$275.00

Board/Maintenance Fee:

Regular board (per day) \$15.00 + GST

Aggressive dog board (per day) \$20.00 + GST

#9150 Sec. 4.1

Dogs Can Not Run At Large

A person who keeps a dog must not permit, suffer or allow the dog to run at large.

#9150 Sec. 4.2

Dogs Must Be On A Leash

A person who keeps a dog must not permit, suffer or allow the dog to be on any street or other public place unless the dog is under the immediate charge and control of a person by means of a leash that is not more than 2.5 meters long.

#9150 Sec. 1.2

Aggressive Dog

"Aggressive dog" means:

1. any dog with a known propensity, tendency or disposition to attack without provocation any domestic animal or human, or
2. a dog which has bitten another domestic animal or human without provocation.

Appendix D City Bylaw Report *(continued)*

#9150 Sec. 4.3

In addition to complying to section 4.2, a person who keeps an aggressive dog must at all times have the dog muzzled while off its property to prevent it from biting another animal or person.

#9150 Sec. 4.5

A person who keeps an aggressive dog must, at all times while the dog is on property owned or controlled by such person, securely confine the dog either indoors or in an enclosed structure capable of preventing the entry of young children and adequately constructed to prevent the dog from escaping or biting a domestic animal or human being.

#9150 Sec. 6

Impounding

If a dog is off its property, not leashed and not under the immediate charge of a responsible person, it may be impounded and/or the owner or keeper ticketed for breach of the Animal Control Bylaw.

#9150 Sec. 4.4

Beaches

A person who keeps a dog must not permit, suffer or allow the dog to be on a bathing beach or in the waters adjacent to a bathing beach.

#9150 Sec. 6.5

Biting Dog

A dog which has bitten or who is alleged to have bitten a person may be seized and impounded for a period of up to 21 days.

#9150 Sec. 4.9

Dog Waste

A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, except for a service dog in the company of a handler who is physically disabled or a guide dog in the company of a handler who is blind, must immediately remove any excrement deposited by the dog, and deposit it in a suitable refuse container. (This does not apply to the dog owner's property).

#9150 Sec. 4.12

Barking Dog

A person who owns or occupies a premise must not permit, suffer or allow the sound of a barking or howling dog that a person not on the same premises can easily hear and that disturbs or tends to disturb unreasonably the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of such person.

#9150 Sec. 4.11

Dogs in Open Vehicles

A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, must not keep the dog in an open vehicle unless such person secures the dog in a manner that prevents the dog from falling or being thrown out of the vehicle.

Appendix D City Bylaw Report *(continued)*

#9150 Sec. 4.13

Upset or Breaking into Refuse Containers

A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, must not permit, suffer, or allow the dog to upset or break into a refuse container on a street or other public place.

#9150 Sec. 5.1

Basic Care

A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, must give the dog food, water, shelter, and exercise sufficient to maintain the dog in good health.

#9150 Sec. 5.2

Tethering

A person who keeps a dog, or a person who has care, custody or control of a dog, must not tie or fasten a dog to a fixed object by using a choke collar or choke chain or by tying a rope, chain, or cord directly around the dog's neck.

Last modified: Tuesday, June 14, 2005

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Appendix E “Eliminate on Command”

By David the Dogman

If you plan to travel with your puppy, have rushed, hectic mornings or simply don't relish standing in the rain while Rover takes his sweet time going potty, you should teach him to Eliminate on Command. Not only will it speed up the process of having him empty out, but it provides you with the convenience of being able to control when and where he will eliminate.

That you can teach your dog to eliminate when and where you tell him might, at first, sound miraculous. But, a command, even one that tells him to do his business, is nothing more than a stimulus to get him to perform a certain behaviour. Although elimination is a natural, biological function, dogs also eliminate to a wide range of visual, auditory and olfactory stimuli. Very young puppies are stimulated to urinate and defecate by their dam licking their ano- genital area. Older puppies respond to both pressure on the bowel or bladder as well as to the sight of their littermates eliminating. Adult dogs use feces and urine to mark territory. It is not at all unusual for resident dogs to mark droppings left by strange dogs that have wandered through their territory. Many dogs, especially males, will mark their territorial boundaries at the sight or sound of a strange dog.

The process of teaching your dog the command to eliminate is straightforward and simple - have him hear the command as he performs the behaviour. Then reward the behaviour. When you determine that he needs to eliminate, take him on his leash to the spot where you want him to use as his toilet area. Command him to go and continue to repeat the command until he does. As soon as he eliminates, praise him profusely and reward him with something that he wants.

Step one. Determine that he needs to go. Predicting when your dog needs to eliminate is fairly easy. He will need to go shortly after he eats or drinks. The younger he is, the shorter will be the time between ingestion and elimination. He will need to urinate almost immediately after waking from a nap. If crated, he will need to eliminate after any length of time in the crate. In fact, putting your dog in his crate for an hour or so will almost insure that he will eliminate quickly. A play session when Mum, Dad or the kids arrive home is sure to cause him to need to go. And with young puppies, you are safe in considering that he will need to be taken outside about once an hour during the day for each month of his age.

It is imperative that a responsible adult watch the puppy while he is loose in the house. They will each give you a signal that they need to go. This signal will vary from puppy to puppy, but they will, all, if you'll watch them, tell you of their needs. The signal may be that he starts to sniff the area. Many start turning in a tight circle. It's a sign that you need to scoop him up and take him outside.

Step Two. Have a designated toilet area. From a cleanup point of view, it is best to choose one specific area as your puppy's toilet. Dogs are creatures of habit. If you take him, each time, to the same spot, it will, in a short time become a signal to him that it is potty time. It will also, later, help to prevent him from choosing your steps or patio as his bathroom. This is a good idea from a strictly training point of view as well. The scent left by his previous visits act as a powerful olfactory stimulus. It is necessary to clean up after your puppy's visit as many dogs refuse to walk in an area fouled by feces. An easy way to do this is to insert your hand into a plastic bag, scoop up the feces, turn the bag inside out and seal it.

Step Three. Keep him in the area. Most puppies, unless they are restrained, will spend their time outside in play. They will chase butterflies, sniff where the mice have scurried through the grass, anything except doing what you have brought them there to do. When you give up and take them back inside, they will suddenly remember their need. It is advisable to take your puppy out on his leash. Let boredom remind him of why he is there.

Step four. Limit his time. Allow your puppy not more than five minutes to do his business. The entire point of this training is to teach him to go quickly when you tell him to. Standing around for long periods of time teaches him that you have nothing better to do than wait for him. If, after five minutes, he has not eliminated, simply put him in his crate. Leave him there for fifteen minutes. Then try him again.

Step five. Reward success. Reward is the key to all successful dog training. When your puppy goes within the allotted five minute time span, immediately praise him. Reward him with something that he wants. This last is the tricky part. The reward must be something that he wants, not just something you think he wants. For many puppies, being taken off the leash is sufficient reward. House dogs, that are inside all day, might consider a long walk adequate reward. For some it might be a tasty food treat. For others, a chance to chase a ball.

The opposite of reward is punishment. Inadvertently punishing your dog after he has eliminated can quickly condition him to hold it as long as possible. Most of us adhere to a tight work and social schedule that sometimes makes an extra fifteen or twenty minutes to spend with our dog hard to come by. If you are going to succeed in teaching your puppy to eliminate on command, you absolutely must make this time available. When you rush him back inside as soon as he has eliminated, what you are teaching him is that he will get to stay outside longer if he holds it longer. To teach your puppy to eliminate on command you must avoid inadvertent punishment. You can do this by observing a simple rule:

Always give your puppy ten minutes of reward time after he has eliminated.

David the Dogman's A-Z Guide to Dogs ISBN 84-89954-08-09 available from Bookshops or direct from www.thedogman.net

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