

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

1. Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog?

No, I do not have a dog because my wife and I live in a small 1-bedroom apartment and our apartment complex does not allow us to have pets.

2. Palo Alto allows dogs on all trails in open space preserves except weekends and holidays at Foothill Park. Do you believe:

- (a) There should be some off-leash trails.**
- (b) Foothill Park should allow dog access on weekends and holidays.**
- (b) The amount of off-leash trails (none) and on-leash is just right.**
- (c) There should be no off-leash trails and fewer on-leash trails.**

Please explain your choice.

Consistent with most other area's preserves, the allowance of dog's off-leash is limited because of wildlife concern, because most dogs' instinct is to chase and/or capture wildlife. Setting up a confrontational situation that could be dangerous for both the dog and animal. In addition, there are dangerous predators in Foothill park, including mountain lions and rattlesnakes, that could harm or kill our dogs.

3. Palo Alto has small fenced in off-leash dog areas in Greer Park, Hoover Park and Mitchell Park: Do you believe:

- (a) Additional parks (or more area in these parks) should allow dogs off-leash.**
- (b) This is the right amount of off-leash dog parks for Palo Alto**
- (c) One or more of these parks should no longer allow dogs off-leash.**

Please explain your choice.

Palo Alto's dog parks have proven to be incredibly popular. Many Palo Altans own dogs and this pandemic has shown the need for people and animals to get outside and enjoy open space and greenery. There should be more parks that are in walking distance to our neighborhoods so that people and their four-legged friends can easily walk to a park and avoid the increased congestion and greenhouse gas emissions that come from having to use a car to drive to one of the few parks with dog parks.

4. There is a proposal to test off-leash hours at two Palo Alto parks (other than the fenced in dog run areas at Mitchell, Greer and Hoover parks). Do you support this proposal? Do you support the overall concept of limited off-leash hours at some Palo Alto parks? Please elaborate.

The Parks and Recreation Commission previously studied this issue and found it impractical because of the hours of operation required most people to walk their dogs in the evening, but evenings is also when most of our city's fields are being used by sporting activities. I would be interested in piloting out a program at two Palo Alto parks in order to test the viability of such a program.

5. Do you believe there are Palo Alto parks, trails and open space that should no long permit dogs on-leash? Please elaborate.


No. Palo Alto has a large dog population with a populace who loves their dogs and require access to neighborhood serving parks.

6. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access?

There is no question that the relationship between dogs and humans is a special bond and one that Palo Altans deeply value. The benefits of owning a dog are immense. We know dog ownership leads to incredible health benefits like decreased blood pressure, decreased feeling of loneliness, and increased opportunities for exercise and socialization. Today, during shelter-in-place, this need for socialization has never been more important. Additionally, the importance of our pets was demonstrated several years ago when our local animal shelter was going to close and the people of Palo Alto packed City Hall and spoke out against the impending closure. Quality of life is incredibly important to all of us here, and having a city that promotes our wellbeing by encouraging more walkable paths, neighborhood parks with amenities for dogs, and additional green space are all critical components to maintaining our quality of life.

Greer Stone

Printed Name



Signature

9/15/2020

Date

Thank you for answering these questions. We plan on putting your answers on our website to make it easy for your constituents to view your positions.