

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

1. Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog on-leash and/or off-leash?

Yes, I have had my own dog for 3.5 years. Before that I had a family dog as well. One of my favorite parks to walk my dog is Mori Point in Pacifica. It had the beach, hiking trails, and lots of space. I also like taking my dog to Thornwood, Laurelwood Park and the Los Prados dog park. My dog always stays on leash.

2. San Mateo County (SMC) has 24 parks encompassing over 16,000 acres with about 200 miles of walking trails. Although over 40% of SMC households have a dog, only approximately 8% of trails allow dogs on-leash and 3% of trails (just Quarry Park) allow dogs off-leash as part of a one-year pilot program. By comparison, environmentally conscious Marin and East Bay Parks allow dog access on 90% of trails. **Would you like to see dog access in SMC parks increase, stay the same or reduce? Are there particular trails or parks you believe should permit dogs on-leash and/or off-leash?**

Yes, I would absolutely love to see more dog access at SMC parks. Crystal Springs Regional Trail, Memorial Park, and Pescadero Creek Park are the parks I would love to see allow dogs since I've personally visited these parks and wished my pup could have joined me.

3. The Board of Supervisors (BOS), after over 5 years of study by the SMC Dog Work Group, voted 4-1 on November 9, 2021 to approve a one year pilot program to allow dogs off-leash on specific trails at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. **If you had been on the BOS, how would you have voted? Please explain your position.**

I would have absolutely voted yes. I have to say that I'm pretty astonished it took 5 years of advocacy from the dog work group to get a one year pilot approved. This shows me that this work group has to work really hard for their recommendations to be considered and it's the kind of issue the BOS could move forward quickly if they had the political will.

4. San Mateo County (SMC) has an ordinance (~100 years old) stating that no dogs, neither on-leash or off-leash, are allowed at County parks. The County has passed ordinances making exceptions to permit on-leash walking on some trails in several parks and off-leash walking (earlier this year) as a pilot program on some trails in one park (Quarry Park). Other Bay Area Counties and most SMC cities allow dogs on-leash as the default position. **Would you support and vote to change the SMC ordinance to permit dogs on-leash as the default position for SMC Parks? Why or why not?**

Yes, I absolutely would support a change in policy which would allow on leash dogs access to all county parks. I would support this because I believe it's the right thing to do. I would want to read the 100 year ordinance and consider whether the concerns or points that led to the ordinance being drafted

and approved are even relevant now and if so would ensure that we address those concerns in a collaborative and timely manner. Our county has so much beautiful open space and residents should be allowed to share those experiences with every member of their family including their fur babies.

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

I would like to add that I would love to see more support for dog owners who have dogs with issues like anxiety or reactivity, My dog is reactive with large dogs because of a couple of incidents that occurred when he was a puppy. It's difficult for us to access the parks and trails that allow dogs because there are so few of them that they're usually packed with folks who have dogs who are non-reactive. If we had more parks and trails available for dogs then folks could spread out more and we'd see more use of our open spaces. I believe that owning a dog is beneficial to folks in many ways including in combating depression, anxiety, and loneliness. As a social worker, I have recommended dog ownership to many families who have a family member with a disability so that the person can benefit from the positive relationship I've seen many children and adults with disabilities develop with dogs. Opening more county parks for dog access also benefits some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We should not be using county resources and staff to fine community members who use trails or parks with their dogs. W

Noelia Corzo

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Thank you for answering these questions. If you have any questions, contact Matthew Greenberg, PeninsulaDogPAC@gmail.com, (650) 400-1280