

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!..we have a four-legged family member whom we adore! Charley is a 3-year-old golden retriever who walks us through our neighborhood, the Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (near San Carlos) and Stulsaft Park (Redwood City).

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?**

Working regular exercise into our busy lives is a challenge. When we hike, we always consider "with or without dog? On or off-leash?" I look forward to learning where the San Mateo Counties Peninsula Dog PAC would like to see increased access. As above, outside of our neighborhood, we frequent the Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (near San Carlos) and Stulsaft Park (Redwood City).

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 voted YES for this pilot. I appreciate that the demand for dog access by their owners is high. In addition, the pilot program design was well-studied and informed by diverse and robust stakeholder input. As a result, guidelines with clear and actionable monitoring and enforcement criteria were developed and implemented.

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?**

The SMC Parks and Open Space areas are ecologically and biologically diverse. I believe that the parameters for the Pillar Point and Quarry Park pilot programs were very thoroughly considered. I look forward to conversations on how aspects of this

approach can be adopted to allow greater access for dogs in the parks. My inclination is to support on-leash default in the parks and look forward to having more related conversations sooner than later.

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

Access to natural open spaces improves the mental and physical well-being of people and their pets. Balancing these benefits with our responsibility to preserve and protect our open diverse and sensitive natural habitats requires careful and deliberate consideration. As always, I am open to conversations and ideas about how we can improve the quality of life for all within our parks and open space areas. It is one of the pillars of my campaign.

Laura Parmer-Lohan

Printed Name



Signature

8/4/22

Date

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