

# Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire – John Durkin San Carlos

**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 adopted Abby about a year ago from Monterrey Bay Labradors. She is going to be 8 years old. Our dog, Dexter (a lab/golden mix), we lost too quickly last July at age 10. We walk Abby on-leash around our White Oaks neighborhood. Abby also enjoys a daily walk on Laurel Street from Starbucks to Bow Wow Meow. They we around the downtown neighborhood and sniff outside the City Hall Dog Park. Long story, but Abby’s vet doesn’t want her going to dog parks to prevent a collision with another dog. Dexter enjoyed the City Hall Dog Park. We went there infrequently, but he always led me across San Carlos Avenue after every visit.

**Abby is featured on my website: [johndurkinforsancarlos.com](http://johndurkinforsancarlos.com)**

**2. San Carlos has 73 acres of open space trails in Big Canyon and Eaton parks. Dogs are allowed on-leash on these trails. Do you believe:**

- (a) **There should be some off-leash trails.**
- (b) **The amount of off-leash trails (none) and on-leash (all) is just right.**
- (c) **There should be no off-leash trails and fewer on-leash trails.**

**Please explain your choice.** (A) As a member of the San Carlos City Council, I would be willing to explore opportunities for some off-leash trails.

**3. San Carlos Dog Park, Heather Dog Exercise Area, and City Hall Park permit dogs off-leash in these closed in areas. Do you believe:**

- (a) **Additional parks and trails should allow dogs off-leash.**
- (b) **This is the right amount of off-leash dog parks for San Carlos.**
- (c) **One or more of these parks should no longer allow dogs off-leash.**

**Please explain your choice.** . (A) As a member of the San Carlos City Council, I would be willing to explore opportunities for additional off-leash locations for dogs. A hiker should not be surprised by an off-leash dog. I imagine hikers are similar to neighborhood walkers & dog walkers and they hike or walk at the same time every day. Bring the stakeholders together and discuss opportunities for a pilot program.

**4. Recognizing that over 40% of households in San Carlos have dogs, should schools in San Carlos allow people to walk dogs on-leash and/or off-leash on weekends and/or evenings when school is not in session? If so, which schools?** When exploring off-leash opportunities at schools, I think our first priority is to make sure that the school buildings are protected from theft. Next, let’s walk each campus and determine which might work as a “not in session” dog park. On the reverse side, while school is in session, are there opportunities for limited use “in session” dog areas on the grass areas of our city parks? People that worry about poop residue left by an off-leash dog should be reminded that an on-leash dog can still poop in the park. Bring the stakeholders together and discuss opportunities for a pilot program. RESPONSIBLE dog owners are the key to success. Educating the irresponsible dog owner is necessary.

**5. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access? RESPONSIBLE** dog owners are the key to adding more off-leash opportunities in San Carlos. Dog owners and their dogs just want opportunities for 15 minutes of ball throwing and “pee mail” sniffing with their friends. Exercise is important for both the pet and their owner. (Mental Health improves for both getting outside!) Let’s pilot/test additional areas and times for off-leash space in San Carlos. Like I said before, Bring the stakeholders together and discuss opportunities for pilot programs.

I encourage every San Carlos dog owner to make a 2 minute public comment and every City Council meeting. Be heard.

Thank you. **John Durkin for San Carlos City Council**

John Durkin 9/15/22

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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