

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

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

My wife and I adopted a rescued dog named Sunshine. We walked Sunshine in a variety of areas throughout San Mateo County and typically walked her "on-leash". Some of my best bonding moments with Sunshine and my community happened during walks around South San Francisco with Sunshine. Having Sunshine gave me context on the public spaces that are and are not dog friendly.

Sadly, Sunshine passed away last summer, but she spent her last few years taking care of my father after he was diagnosed with cancer. Sunshine became his constant companion. They took walks together even when my father felt ill. So, to me Sunshine was not just a loving pet to me, but a ray of sunlight to my father.

I still cherish my memories of her today. Losing Sunshine underscored the joys we shared walking throughout San Mateo County and how valuable pet accessibility is.

2. Recognizing that over 40% of households in the congressional district have dogs, what parks, schools, open spaces, and trails in your district do you think people should be allowed to walk dogs on-leash and/or off-leash?

I am an animal lover and enjoyed the capability to get out and walk with Sunshine and my family. Generally, Sunshine walks on-leash. I am very aware that when discussing dogs being allowed places "on-leash" versus "off-leash" there are numerous factors to consider. When allowing dogs to be off-leash, are the dogs and their owners both trained and aware of the off-leash social, safety, and environmental responsibilities? Does the dog respond to voice commands and does their "human" institute those commands appropriately in those situations? Congressional District 15 is home to exceptional biodiversity and natural habitats. Some habitats are not dog friendly, and some may be compromised with off-leash dogs present. If we are looking for ways to expand access for dogs in our parks, there must be a compromise that addresses these concerns.

3. Are you supportive of off-leash walking opportunities in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)? Currently dogs are only allowed at some sites in San Francisco and Marin. Would you consider supporting additional off-leash access at GGNRA sites in San Mateo County? FYI: Congress member Jackie Speier was a strong supporter of protecting current off-leash locations and advocating for additional ones. Please elaborate.

Despite being limited to certain areas, I am proud of Golden Gate National Recreation Area for being the only park in the National Park Service to allow responsible dog walking. This is a good start, although only allowing on-leash dog access in San Mateo County seems restrictive, considering voice control or on-leash access is widely permitted in Marin and San Francisco counties. I would consider expanding voice control dog access to suitable GGNRA spaces in San Mateo County. To my knowledge, this park has significant biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems. As stated previously, finding a form of compromise would serve all parties best.

4. Are you supportive of on-leash dog walking and some off-leash dog walking opportunities in San Mateo County parks in Assembly District 21? Please explain your position. (FYI: Currently San Mateo County allows 8% on-leash and only some trails at Quarry Park off-leash.)

Open spaces and parks provide recreational areas for residents. It is important to protect these green spaces. The rules governing the way residents engage with these spaces can have good or bad environmental impacts, so I support a balance between on-leash dog walking and some off-leash dog walking.

6. What are highlights of accomplishments you have done to increase dog access or support dog owners during your years in public service and your time living in the district?

Advocating for our community's dog owners was a priority for me this year. In 2022, I secured \$25,000 in funding for the Peninsula Humane Society for a needed new x-ray machine.

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

I am a strong supporter of adopting rescue pets. I host an annual pet adoption at the Peninsula Humane Society - SPCA where I personally pay the adoption costs for any pet, which include vaccinations, a vet check, spay/neuter surgery, and a microchip ID. Nearly 200 pets have been adopted through my event over the years.

I co-authored AB 147 (2015) that requires higher education institutions that confine dogs or cats for research purposes, offer the dogs or cats to an animal adoption or rescue organization prior to euthanasia, provided that the institution assesses the health of the animal and determines that the animal is suitable for adoption.

In the California State Assembly, I voted for:

AB 1781 (2021), which establishes safe transportation standards for dogs and cats in the care of public or private shelters or animal control agencies.

AB 485 (2017), which limits the sales of animals in California that are bred in puppy mills, kitten factories, or other commercial breeding facilities. Additionally, AB 485 would require each pet store to post on the cage or enclosure the name of the humane organization the animal came from.

AB 797 (2016), which seeks to grant immunity from both civil and criminal liability to any person who takes reasonable steps that are necessary to remove an animal from a motor vehicle if the person holds a reasonable belief that the animal's safety is in immediate danger.

AB 1825 (2016), which deletes from the definition of vicious dog "a dog seized under criminal laws prohibiting dog-fighting whose owner has been convicted of a crime related to dog-fighting." This will allow all dogs to be judged by their own health and behavior and provide humanitarians and sanctuaries the opportunity to give a dog or puppy seized as a victim of animal abuse an opportunity to live a safe and cruelty-free life.

Printed Name: Kevin Mullin

Signature:

Date: 9/21/22



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.