

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?** We have a dog- she is a member of our family. Her name is Minnie. She is a Esk-tzu-ranian. (@ 60% American Eskimo-miniature, @25 Shih tzu, and @15 Pomeranian... OK the truth is- she is a mutt!) We adopted Minnie almost 2 years ago from the North Bay Humane Society during the pandemic. We are not sure who saved who! Minnie was found outdoors, in a drainage ditch, her fur was matted, and she had visible signs of abuse- including damage to her eye. We nursed her back to health and our 2 daughters- enjoyed her companionship so much during their time of distance learning during the pandemic.

I was raised in a household that always had dogs. My first inclination was that I wanted a bigger dog- like a Springer Spaniel or a Golden Retriever- to accompany me on walks & hikes, but my wife and girls fell for Minnie, and after a few weeks- she and I became very close too. Every night Minnie sits on my lap for about 30 to 45 minutes, and we watch the news. In the morning, she will jump up on our bed, and lay between my wife and I until we rub her belly and then take her into the yard.

We live on a busy street- so we tend to keep Minnie on-leash, except for when she is at the dog park. When we do take her to the dog park- it is usually Laurie Meadows. We wish we had a dog park with a fenced in area closer to us- like Sunnybrae park, or maybe a new dog park! We also sometimes take Minnie to Ryder Park Dog Park. She doesn't seem to like that park as much we think it is because it is usually a lot more dusty/dirty- she prefers to be on a lawn- she is sort of a dainty little lady!

- 2. Recognizing that over 40% of households in San Carlos have dogs, what schools, open spaces and trails in San Mateo do you think people should be allowed to walk dogs on-leash and/or off-leash?** I think we probably have a similar percentage in the City of San Mateo- at least in my neighborhood of Sunnybrae, maybe not as much in the new transit-orientated neighborhood of Bay Meadows, which is also in my District.

I would always like to see MORE areas/parks close by where dogs can run off-leash. It is disappointing that as new as the Bay Meadows development is- that the city didn't include a dog park there, I'd like to change that.

I think it is always a balance with leashes- and it really comes down to the SAFETY of the dog and their companions. Ex: If someone is walking a large dog off leash, they need to have the dog trained so that it doesn't run up on a small dog- as often the smaller dog will react by barking and then chaos can ensue. Likewise small dog's need to have a level of obedience where they won't dart off into the street. I think dogs on school campuses should be on-leash, unless there is a contained area for them to run. I think dogs should have more freedom to run in open spaces, and if I am on the San Mateo City Council, I will push for the continued growth of dog park areas to our city.

3. San Mateo allows dogs off-leash in fenced in areas at Seal Point Park, Laurie Meadows Park, Los Prados Park, and Bayside-Joinville Park. Between 6-8 am ONLY, dogs are allowed at Fitzgerald Field in Central Park and Chanteloup Field in Beresford Park (weekdays only). Do you believe:

- (a) ~~The amount of off-leash is right.~~
- (b) **There should be more off-leash.**
- (c) ~~There should be less off-leash.~~

Please explain your choice.

We need more safe areas with Dog Runs/Play areas. I'd like to have our dog off-leash more, but we want it to be in a space that is safe for her. Often at Laurie Meadows- when we bring Minnie there- there are many people with their small dogs that are outside of the fenced-in dog area. I have asked why they do this, and usually they say because they want to keep their small dogs separated from larger dogs. I have wondered if it wouldn't make sense to have either separate areas or sometimes reserved for small or large dogs. Our dog Minnie- tends to get along with dogs of all sizes.

4. The only non-fenced in off-leash areas for dogs to play in San Mateo are Fitzgerald field and Chanteloup field (M-F only) in the early morning hours of 6-8 am. Should there be additional times (after most people are awake) at these parks for off-leash dog recreation? Are there additional areas and times where you believe dog owners should be allowed off-leash dog recreation? Please discuss. I was unaware that our dog could run in Fitzgerald and Chanteloup Field between 6-8am. It seems silly- that there aren't more times (provided the fields don't have games scheduled) where we can run our dogs. If I am on the Council- I will work to improve more hours in the evenings and middays.

5. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access? Our family had my mom's birthday the other day and we had our fur-family with us too: Buddy (14 yr old Shih tzu-terrior mix), Stevie (12 yr old Rhodesian Ridgeback), Minnie (7 yr old Esk-tzu-ranian Mix) Callie (6 yr old Golden Retriever), Riley (4 yr old Champagne Golden Retriever), & Mazzie (4 mo. Old Shih tzu puppy.) I think that dogs' make-up an important part of our families. Size and breed vary based on the person, but we can always use more outdoor space for them. As an elected official, I will work to be sure that safe recreation spaces are continued to be developed to keep pace with our growing population.

Robert Newsom Jr.
Printed Name

Robert Newsom Jr.
Signature

Sept. 23rd, 2022
Date

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