

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

1. **Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog?** I have and do own many dogs. Currently we have 2 Chow Chows who do not need walking. They stay happily in our yard but I have walked every legal trail in Portola Valley with my dogs over the years. We have limited most of our walks to the Westridge Trails but my children run with their dog all over the Peninsula. They are frustrated with the many closed to dog signs. The beach south of San Francisco was their favorite.
2. **Larry Lane Trail allows residents to take a hike with their dogs on-leash. What parks, schools, open spaces and trails in Portola Valley do you think people should be allowed to walk dogs on-leash? Please elaborate.** Hayfields has dog access, Windy Hill has dogs access and all the Town trails along roads have dog access. Coal Mine Ridge and Blue Oaks go through a wildlife preserve and has limited dog use. The trails by my house in Westridge have unlimited dog use. The police were called on the treasured trail easement along my property by a person who was, I suppose, bothered by my Cavalier King Charles sneaking under the fence of his own property. So disconcerting to have an armed policeman come to visit your terrified Cavalier on her home sofa! We need to be more tolerant of each other's love of dogs and more open with each other about our concerns! Most of us are animal lovers and all of us want to live together with our flora and fauna in harmony, including the people.
3. **What parks, schools, open spaces and trails in Portola Valley do you think people should be allowed to walk dogs off-leash? Please elaborate.** Dogs love to be free and play together with new friends. The school yards, Ormondale, Corte Madera, the Frog Pond seem ideal for loose dogs under owner's watchful eye. These should be schedule and published play times. There you will find lots of parking and grass fields with everyone watching out for good behavior on cleaning up! Loose dogs on multi use trails is a problem for other dogs, frightened walkers, horses and children as well as clean up. These may seem like wilderness trails but they are heavily used. Bikes can be toppled by a loose dog on the run. We need to be realistic about safety.
4. School yard times should be carefully scheduled not to conflict with sports and other field activities, and with watering schedules to leave the fields maximally clean. There should have an absolute policy on clean up! The dog groups I have been in, in the past, were wonderful about teaching new comers good manners about clean up and about good interaction between dogs. It is really a fun gathering for building community.
5. **Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access?** We would all so love it if the good folks who put dog poop into bags would take the bags to the nearest garbage can. No one likes the look or feel of plastic bags of dog poop along the trail. Poop is natural; mystery plastic bags are not!
6. Thank you for doing this survey. An honest exchange on the subject will get many people to think outside of the box or the back yard! Dogs need to get a regular chance to socialize!

_Mary Page Hufty_____

Printed Name

Signature

_____September 11.2020

Date

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.