

## Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

### **1. Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog?**

Dolce is our wonderful 11-year-old terrier mix who we rescued when she was a puppy. We often take her to walk the Bay Trail starting at Seal Point Park. She loves watching the birds and sniffing the air. We also like to take her to Water Dog Lake Park and out to Pillar Point Bluff where she loves to dig in the sand and then shake herself like crazy.

I am a lifelong dog lover and have shared my life with a basset hound, a German Shepard, and many, many wonderful mixes. They have given me and my family unending happiness and consoled us when we need it most.

### **2. 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?**

It would be wonderful if schools and other public spaces in San Mateo could be open to walking dogs on-leash and/or off-leash when they are not in official use. As a San Mateo City Council Member, I also would invite public comment on other ideal areas to pilot for on-leash and/or off-leash walking.

Outside of San Mateo, I would encourage pilot programs to expand the areas of the Coastal Trail open to walk dogs on-leash.

Along with this expanded usage, I think it is very important to enforce "Pick Up The Poop" regulations so that everyone can enjoy these open spaces.

### **3. San Mateo allows dogs off-leash at Seal Point Park, Laurie Meadows Park (fenced off area), Los Prados Park (fenced area), Bayside-Joinville Park (fenced area) and 6-8 am only at Fitzgerald Field in Central Park and Chanteloup Field in Beresford Park. 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.**

B) I believe there should be more off-leash. While I respect the desire of others not to be interrupted or worried by off-leash dogs, our dogs need their exercise and play time as well. I would suggest putting new areas in a pilot program, like Fitzgerald Field in Central Park, to see how it goes. If there are not a lot of complaints, and there are a lot of "Great improvement!" comments, then the pilots could be gradually expanded.

I also would like to see pilot programs of more "dog parks" where dogs can run and play with each other, not just on their own. As a San Mateo City Council Member, I would work with our Parks and Recreation staff to get residents' input on where the City could pilot more off-leash areas, as well as new dog parks. The VOCA texting survey service ([voca.vote](https://voca.vote)) that the City now uses to get feedback on policy issues from residents would be a great way to invite more public comment on this important quality of life issue.

**4. How do you think the pilot program of allowing dogs off-leash at Fitzgerald Field in Central Park is working? Do you believe the limited hours allowing dogs off-leash at Fitzgerald Field (daily 6-8 am) and Chanteloup field (M-F, 6-8 am) is:**

- (a) The right amount of time for dogs off-leash each day.
- (b) There should be more off-leash dog time each day.
- (c) These parks should not allow dogs off-leash at all.

**Please explain your choice.**

B) I support the pilot program of allowing more off-leash dog time at these locations. As far as I've heard, there have been minimal complaints and a lot of dog and human companion happiness! As a San Mateo City Council Member, I would recommend trying another pilot program at the end of the day and then convening a community meeting to get public feedback as to whether the pilots should be made permanent. You also could send out online surveys, e.g. VOCA, to people who live near the parks, etc. to get greater feedback.

**5. Do you believe there are San Mateo parks that should no longer permit dogs on-leash? Please elaborate?**

No. I do not believe there are San Mateo parks that should no longer permit dogs on-leash. Prohibiting dogs from fragile areas, however, such as the Japanese Tea Garden in Central Park, is very appropriate to preserve the area. I also doubt many dogs would have fun in the Japanese Tea Garden!

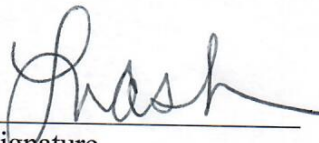
**6. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access?**

Dogs can be great "therapy" for people, whether or not they are trained as "therapy dogs". Particularly in this time of COVID-19-induced social isolation, the relationship between people and their dogs is even more important. I understand that many dog shelters have far fewer dogs left for adoption as people are turning to dogs when they can't connect with people.

With that need for companionship comes the responsibility to take good care of your dog. That includes getting sufficient exercise and a chance to play. Walking on-leash gives a dog a certain amount of exercise, but it doesn't give them the vigorous exercise and playtime they need and want.

We need more on-leash and off-leash opportunities for our dogs. I applaud the Dog Work Group that San Mateo County runs to bring together the public and County officials to identify new places for on-leash dog walking. I believe, given the opportunity, that San Mateans and our Peninsula neighbors could come up with additional responsible suggestions that would respect the rights of people without dogs while also giving our dogs the exercise and fun they need and deserve.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Diaz Nash  
Printed Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Sept. 3, 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.*