

Update February 2009 (approved by the board January 2009)

6. Dog Policy:

The Club accepts that some individuals feel threatened by dogs, and that other wish to ski with their dogs. This policy attempts to find a fair balance between the interests of both.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- To make users of ski club facilities aware of what they can expect in matters related to dogs on club facilities.
- To promote responsible use of ski club facilities by skiers with dogs.
- To limit WCCSC liability arising from incidents involving dogs on ski club facilities.
- To encourage mutual respect between those people who ski with their dogs and those who do not.
- To prescribe areas where dogs are permitted, and to allow for flexibility to accommodate specific events which may take place on ski club facilities.
- To outline club procedures for responding to complaints regarding dog behaviour.

Principles:

- The Club advises those who ski with their dogs to abide by City of Whitehorse animal bylaws which apply to all ski club facilities at all times.
- Owners are fully responsible for their dogs. Where an incident involving a dog takes place, the owner is responsible.
- Dogs (maximum of two per skier) are permitted in the following areas, under the full control of their owners:
 - Stadium Trailhead at the south end of Canada Games Centre Parking Lot
 - Through the Ski Stadium, to allow access from parking area – please follow the designated route on the east side of the stadium;
 - Alternate parking area south of Sumanik Drive and adjacent to Dog Trail
 - Dog Trail;
 - Copper Trail from Crossroads Junction (near Harvey's Hut) to Copper Haul Road;
 - Copper Haul Road trail
 - Lower and Upper Valley and connectors; and
 - Logan Burn Trail.
 - Skiers with dogs are expected to remove dog waste from parking areas, and the stadium area, as well as the groomed part of the ski trails.

- Individuals who use ski club facilities where dogs are permitted should be prepared to meet dogs at any time.

Note: In this policy, “owner” refers to the person in charge of the dog while at WCCSC facilities.

Process:

- Complaints are to be made to staff, or to members of the executive if staff is unavailable, in person or in writing as soon as possible after any incident.
- WCCSC staff will look into all complaints and report back to the complainant(s) within a reasonable period of time.
- All complaints regarding incidents involving dogs will be reported to the executive and the dog committee.
- Ski club management will deal with complaints based on the attached guidelines.
- The executive is the ultimate authority. Appeals regarding withdrawal of privileges or complaints regarding management handling of dog related incidents will be made to the executive.
- Complainants seeking damages arising from incidents involving dogs must do so directly with the other party involved.

Guidelines for addressing aggressive dog behaviour:

Complaint of a dog-human bite:

- If a dog bites or is accused of biting a human while on club trails or at club facilities the owner of the dog will be contacted immediately by ski club staff or a member of the executive. In the interest of safety the dog's trail privileges will be withdrawn immediately.
- Privileges may be reinstated by the executive if the dog's owner subsequently demonstrates they have control over the dog by successfully completing a Canadian Kennel Club Canine Good Neighbour test administered by a qualified examiner.

Complaints of aggressive behaviour towards humans or other dogs:

(e.g. charging, growling, snapping, jumping on people or other dogs)

It is the club's position that all skiers and dogs should be able to feel safe when using club facilities. Since it is impossible to determine whether a dog behaved aggressively or not after the fact, all complaints about aggressive dog behaviour will be taken seriously.

First Complaint:

A verbal warning will be given to the dog's owner informing them of the consequences of a second complaint.

Second Complaint:

The owner will be contacted verbally and informed that for the dog to retain ski club privileges it must be muzzled and physically controlled on a leash or ski-joring line at all times while using club facilities in the future. A written letter from the executive will be sent as a follow up.

The above requirements may be removed if the dog and owner subsequently provide proof that they have passed a Canine Good Citizen test.

Third Complaint:

If there is a subsequent complaint about the dog's aggressive behaviour, or if the dog is seen on club facilities unmuzzled and/or untethered it will be immediately banned from future use of club facilities.

If the owner continues to disregard these conditions their club membership will be revoked immediately.

If an owner wishes to appeal any of the above sanctions or policies they may contact the club executive.