

**WHAT WE HEARD  
REGARDING NEW CHANGES TO DOG POLICY  
AT MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009  
AND WRITTEN COMMENTS**

A meeting was held on March 26, 2009 in the waxroom of Mt. McIntyre for interested people to express concerns about the recent changes to the Dog Policy. Approximately 25 people were in attendance, including several board members, Mike Kramer, acting manager of the Ski Club.

**CONCERNS:**

- It was felt that we made the changes to the policy without consulting members, educating etc. Some suggestion was made that since we have not kept track of violators of the policy, number and frequency, that we really didn't have anything to base the changes on. There was no public process.
- Some dog owners feel they are treated as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens – also feel they have been banned from the waxing area.
- The changes to the Dog Policy are penalizing all members for the actions of a few.
- The stadium area doesn't have a wide enough area for skiers with dogs to get around the area that is used by children and instructors.
- No shelter for waxing.
- The dog trail is one of the easier trails in the system, so that is where people ski with their children and they meet up with dogs; beginner skiers sometimes find it challenging enough without meeting up with dogs.
- The inconvenience of the new “temporary” dog parking lot – when you leave the lot you have to go up Hamilton Blvd. The parking area isn't always ploughed – shouldn't be expected to have a 4x4 to park there.
- The area by the Race Office has been used to tie up dogs – this area is not ideal because that's where the bus stops to drop grade 1 kids off for Ski S'cool. She has also noted a lot of feces in stadium area and Ketz connector – seems to be the worst part.
- Concerns from dog owners, with other dogs who are not obedient.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- Do we have a committee set up to deal with dog policies? No. This has been a suggestion that the Board is considering – we must consider what the committee's mandate would be.
- Suggestions that a dog committee could assist in educating the public on the dog policy. There was even suggestion that the committee would clean up dog remains, even if it wasn't there own dog.

- Overflow parking area – this is an area on City land that we have permission to use. We have suggested this is a good area for dog owners to start. The Club is responsible for plowing the area.
- Penalize individuals who disobey the policy (the Club has guidelines for this).
- Dog owners should sign that they have read the Dog Policy – this already exists on the membership form.
- Members could monitor the situation (Dog Committee?).
- If issues escalate, have meeting.
- Perhaps Canine Good Neighbor card for people who obey the rules.
- Perhaps better signage – perhaps “This is the Dog Trail – expect to meet dogs”?
- Perhaps dogs shouldn’t be allowed around wax area at peak times.
- Perhaps dogs could be allowed closer to the chalet at lunch hour when people have less time.
- Perhaps dogs should remain in owner’s vehicle until skis are waxed.
- There should be more garbage cans within 1 – 2 km of trail head.
- There should be snowfencing between Dog and Copper trails near Harvey’s Hut.
- Suggestion of tying up dogs near tennis courts and having a trail over to the overpass, then there would be a short section on Copper to Ketz connector and down to dog trail.
- Club could implement a reduced price for “Dog Membership”, which does not allow access to the wax room.
- Agreed it’s not fair for Mike Gladish & his staff to take on all the responsibility.
- Suggested that the problem with the Dog Trail is that it is a two way trail – so meet people/dogs in both directions – suggested that perhaps the 10 k & Pierre Harvey Loop be opened to dogs – there needs to be more variety in the dog trails (easy – difficult).
- Suggested having dog weekends and no dog weekends (similar to what the White Pass does with snowmobiles).
- Suggestion that if we had stairs towards the CGC, this may be a way of dealing with the problem – seems this won’t be happening with the City.
- People were not in agreement of not allowing day pass people to take dogs on trails (because it may be that they are not aware of policy) – suggested that each person sign a form that they have acknowledged reading the dog policy before going out.
- A dog committee could help raise people’s awareness of the dog rules etc.
- Charging dog owners a fee to get a dog licence – this would show the member has read and agreed to comply with the rules.