

Whitehorse Cross-Country Ski Club Dog Policy

The Club accepts that some individuals feel threatened by dogs, and that others 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 inform users of ski club facilities what they can expect in matters related to dogs on club ski grounds.
- To promote responsible use of ski club facilities by skiers with dogs
- To limit WCCSC liability rising from incidents involving dogs on ski club grounds
- 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 behavior.

Requirements:

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.

The bylaws most applicable are:

- Owners are fully responsible for their dogs. Where an incident involving a dog takes place, the owner is responsible.
- Licensing – All dogs residing within the City of Whitehorse are required to be licensed as follows:
 - lifetime tag if your animal is spayed or neutered
 - yearly tag if you animal has not been spayed or neutered
 - micro chipped animals that are spayed or neutered where the owner has provided the owner information and animal details to Bylaw Services
- Defecation – No owner of a dog shall allow the animal to defecate on public land within the City, or on private property other than the owners. It is not a violation where the owner of an offending animal immediately cleans up and properly disposes of the waste.

Whitehorse Cross-country Ski Club Policies:

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

- Skijoring - skijoring is defined as being pulled by a working dog in harness attached by a line to a belt.

- While skijoring:
 - One dog per skier only.
 - Skijorers proceed at a reasonable and regular skier's pace from the Dog Parking Lot to Harvey's Hut and slow down when approaching other skiers in either direction.
 - When approaching skiers from behind, please announce your presence:"on your left" or "passing" would be sufficient.
 - It is the responsibility of the skijorer to prevent his/her dog and it's line from interfering with other skiers and their dogs, including, if necessary, shortening the skijor line while passing. It is likewise the responsibility of other dog owners to prevent their dogs from interfering with skijorers and their dogs.
- Dogs (maximum two per skier or four per ski group) are permitted in the following areas, under the full control of their owners.
 - Dog Parking Lot (alternate park area south of Sumanik Drive and adjacent to Dog Trail)
 - Dog Trail
 - Sundog Trail
 - Copper Trail from Crossroads Junction (near Harvey's Hut) to Copper Haul Road
 - Copper Haul Road Trail
 - Mt. McIntyre Ascent, Descent and Fraser Loop (Fraser Loop is permitted beginning November 15)
 - Lower and Upper Valley and connectors and;
 - Logan Burn Trail
- Skiers with dogs are expected to remove dog waste from the parking areas as well as the groomed part of the ski trails. Trowels hanging from hooks on trees are provided. Waste bags and receptacles are located in the Dog Parking Lot and the Barking Lot by the Mt. McIntyre Recreation Centre.
- Individuals who use ski club facilities where dogs are permitted should be prepared to meet dogs at any time and maintain control of their own dog(s).
- Your dog should have an excellent recall ('come' command)
- The WCCSC reserves the right to ban problematic or aggressive dogs from the ski trails indefinitely – this includes dog attacks on people and/or other dogs. Dog bites of any kind are not tolerated.
- The Club recommends that skiers with dogs who use the WCCSC trails should certify their dog(s) in the Canine Good Neighbour Program.

(Details can be obtained by contacting the Club Manager at info.xcskiwhitehorse@gmail.com)

Complaints Process:

- Complaints are to be made to the Club Manager at info.xcskiwhitehorse@gmail.com, Ski Base staff at 668-4477, or to members of the Board if staff are unavailable. Please provide as much detail as possible in person or in writing as soon as possible after any incident.
- The Club Manager will look into all complaints and report back to the complainant within a reasonable period of time.
- Ski club management will deal with complaints based on the attached regulations.
- The Board is the ultimate authority. Appeals regarding withdrawal of privileges or complaints regarding management of dog related incidents are made to the Board.
- Complainants seeking damages arising from incidents involving dogs must do so directly with the other party involved.