

**From:** Rick Deitner  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2020 7:13:53 PM

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Submitted on Monday, February 10, 2020 - 19:13

Submitted by anonymous user: 204.83.191.12

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, February 10, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Rick

Last Name Deitner

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Widsor St

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Proposed amendment to Animal Control Bylaws

Meeting (if known) Feb 11, 2020 Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services

Comments

I am writing to oppose the proposed 4 dog per person rule in off leash dog parks. I am a full-time professional dog walker and trainer and have a business licence. I have been making a living at it for five years. I have been to workshops by Brad Patterson (End of My Leash) and Turid Rugass (animal behaviouralist). I occasionally train canines who owners struggle with behavioural issues. I do not take just any dog on a group walk. I take prospective clients out and ensure they are suitable to walk in a group. I only accept them into pack walks if they demonstrate a high level of obedience (don't bark, return when called, are comfortable around other animals). I take as many as 10 dogs on a walk. In fact, it is easier to maintain control of a group than a single animal. Dogs are pack animals, stay together and take lead from the alpha (me). I regularly receive compliments about how well the pack behaves from members of the public. My groups have NEVER had an incident or and I have never been fined or ticketed by animal control.

The four dog per person rule will make it impossible to make a living at current rates. Increasing rates will hurt my clients many of which can not exercise their dogs as needed due to work schedules, illness or injury. Dog walking services are needed more today than ever before due people's increasingly hectic schedules.

I believe that any complaints about groups are likely to come from people who are uncomfortable with their dogs because they don't have control of their own animals. I am tactful in dealing with other people walking their dogs and often offer advice to behavioural issues they ask about. I have even intervened when I have encountered other people's dogs fighting one another.

I respectfully request a copy of the February 11, 2020 report of the General Manager, Community Services Department.

I suggest the current rules of having control of your dogs and cleaning up after them is adequate to govern dog walkers. Individuals walking smaller groups/individual animals are more likely to not control them or pick up after them than professional. A possible compromise may be to require a permit/license for professional dog walkers/trainers.

Unfortunately, I could not appear in person on Feb 11. Please let me know when this proposal will be debated next.

If any member of the Committee is interested in coming on a walk to see how mine and other professional dog

walkers groups behave, do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,  
Rick Deitner



Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/369175>