
From: Talia Soparlo [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Web E-mail - City Clerks
Subject: Proposed new animal control bylaw, 4 dog limit

> Hi there,

> So I'm writing you today as I'm concerned with this new bylaw that the city is trying to pass regarding the amount of dogs one person can walk at a time.

>
> I hired [REDACTED] over a year ago. She owns [REDACTED] for dogs and is a local dog walker. I found her at a time where I was desperate. I had a 3 month old at home, a husband working shift work and a larger dog who required a walk a day. With our cold winters, it was impossible for me to get out during the day when I was home alone with our child to walk our dog. And though it might sound pathetic to someone that maybe doesn't have a dog but our dog is our family and the guilt you have for your dog when you can't take them out for their daily walk is awful. [REDACTED] was able to be that substitute for the days that we were unable to. We have a healthy energetic dog who needs a walk daily and it wasn't an option for us to just sit back and not do something about it. So I forked out the money and hired her to fill in when we were unable to. And this goes for a number of other families in the city.

>
> [REDACTED] came over to our house to meet us and meet Hunter, our 2 year black lab dog at that time. Her concern was to assess whether Hunter was an aggressive dog or not, how he was with other people and of course his mannerism with other dogs. She was amazing from the moment we met her and I would 100% call her Saskatoons dog whisperer. I've seen [REDACTED] at the dog park with her pack of dogs and it's incredible to see how each one of these dogs listen and behave around her and getting along with every other dog she had that day. She does take a max of 10 dogs at a time but only comes from her years of experience and watching and knowing the temperament of these dogs.

>
> [REDACTED] whole life revolves around these dogs and her business she has built over the years. If there was any concerns she had with any one of her clients dogs, she would no doubt be contacting that client and figuring out a solution or different option for that client and their dog.

>
> [REDACTED] isn't going around walking these dogs in parks or playgrounds or on the sidewalk. She takes them to the outlined and designated city dog parks around the saskatoon which allows these dogs to run free while in a contained area. Any one of these parks could have anywhere between 2 dogs to 100 dogs at any given time and for the city to limit the amount of dogs one person can have at a time is ridiculous. This doesn't only affect [REDACTED] but the other people in Saskatoon who have a big heart and own 2 or 3 dogs themselves and then fosters dogs on top of that! Because it's needed!

>
> I can understand the concern some people would have with aggressive dogs but anyone that goes to a dog park, has a dog that has been socializing with dogs from the beginning and who actually thrive when other dogs are around. The aggressive dogs at these parks are usually kept on a leash and even sometimes with a mussel as even the dog owner knows they can't trust their own dog to be off leash.

>
> I've been going to the dog park for years now and I have seen one incident involving one dog and it was apparent from just being a bystander that this dog was older, had not been around other dogs for quite some time, was clearly stuck in their ways and wasn't used to other dogs being around them and frankly, the owner had no clue how to even control their own dog.

>
> This owner defused this situation, put a leash back on their dog and left the park and I've never seen that man or his dog back there. And that is the only incident I've ever come across in a dog park. And that was 1 dog!

>
> So trying to put a max amount of dogs one person can take for a walk at a time is honestly ridiculous and unreasonable. Any regular person has maybe one or two dogs so realistic this new bylaw wouldn't be affecting many people. But there are a handful of people that do take on more then 3, 4 or 5 plus dogs at a time and this would completely turn their world upside down.

>
> [REDACTED] does this job because she loves it. She loves being outside, in -30 or +30 and with her pack of dogs Monday to Friday. Not many people could say they love their job. This new bylaw would not be doing anyone any favours and I'm not even sure the reason behind it???

- >
- > Anyway, I just wanted to voice my opinion and hopefully out a stop to this if it's possible.
- >
- > Thank you for your time.
- >
- > Talia Soparlo