

I oppose the following changes to the dog laws as there are no justified grounds:

- Increase of distance of dogs from playgrounds from 3m to 10m.
- On leash area extended along Taylor River
- Prohibition of dogs at Pollard Park
- Prohibition of dogs at Ward Beach

I support the change to allow dogs in the CBD of Blenheim & ability to walk dogs on leash through athletic park to access the river as I believe these are in support of the Dog Control Act.

The Dog Control Act 1996 asks Councils to

1. Minimise danger distress and nuisance to the community;
2. Avoid danger to children,
3. Consider the safety of public places and the recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

The proposed dog laws I oppose do not adhere to the Act for the following reasons:

-Dogs strenuously exercised in a public location:

- Will show more social behaviour as they are meeting many different people, animals and other dogs– therefore supporting 1,2 & 3 of the Act above.
- Well exercised dogs will be less likely to bark or display signs of distress when left at home & will be happy to stay in the limits of their property.

#### TAYLOR RIVER

The Taylor River has local walkable access to most of Blenheim. I oppose:

-Restrict easy-walking access to Taylor river for those living at the Perkiss Street or Burleigh Bridge ends of town. I frequently walk via the river from my house in Colemans Rd to my daughters place in Percy St . This gives me exercise and my dog Felix (Boxer). He needs a lot of exercise, therefore needs to be off a leash as I could never run as far as he does.

I live alone and my dog is my companion. He goes most places I go. I try to walk where possible with him. I do not think we should be forced to drive our dogs to dedicated dog exercise areas. This is not environmentally friendly (carbon emissions) and in this day and age we should not be concentrating dogs into specific areas as sooner or later we will create an epidemic of dog diseases due to over crowding. etc Seems ridiculous that we are trying to ban dogs and their owners from beautiful walking areas when we live in such a low population rural town.

I believe that we should allow dogs to be integrated into our normal society as this is the only way they can learn to behave and socialise, therefore we must allow them in public areas, especially the Taylor River.

#### POLLARD PARK

Pollard park is an easily accessed location for Springlands residents and families of the local schools. Preventing these owners walking dogs at the gardens, we will see the same effect as mentioned above.

#### PLAYGROUNDS

Increasing the distance for dogs at playgrounds means that families with dogs will see an increase in anti-social dog behaviour. Responsible owners should never take dangerous or anti-social dogs to playgrounds anyway, this is why we have not seen any accidents with children in these locations. To increase the distance from 3m to 10m will see distressed dogs (and therefore nuisance) and decreased exposure of children to them (particularly puppies) resulting in anti-social behaviour and an increase in danger to children in the long term.

#### WARD BEACH

Ward beach does not have any reason to prevent dog walking – I do not support this change and believe this is also in breach of the Act.

#### Summary

To keep all parties happy, we should perhaps have harsher penalties for badly behaved dogs so owners become more accountable and responsible for their dog/s behaviour. We will have more dog issues the more we ban dogs from public interaction in normal public places. We pay dog registration fees, lets use the dog officers more to ensure dogs and their owners are being socially acceptable.

This town is becoming way too bike orientated at the cost to people who prefer walking especially with their dogs. Please can the council consider all people in this town not just those on bikes or those who do not own dogs.