

# Survey on Rules Governing the Entry of Dogs in Parks

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For the time being, dogs are denied access to the parks in our provincial network. However, we are examining the possibility of permitting the entry of dogs in Quebec parks in the future. We would like to learn from the experience of other park networks to help us make the best choices.

Your assistance in this matter will be of great use!

## **SECTION A – RESPONDENT IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PARK NETWORK**

### **Bloc 1 – Identification of respondent**

- 1.1 Name: Stuart Walsh`
- 1.2 Position: Safety, Compliance & Enforcement Officer
- 1.3 Telephone: (250) 356-0120
- 1.4 E-mail address: stuart.walsh@gov.bc.ca

### **Bloc 2 – Description of the park network**

- 2.1 Name of network: BC Parks
- 2.2 How many parks make up your network? 1029 parks and protected areas
- 2.3 Indicate the % of your parks that correspond to each of the following:
  - A- Protected Areas meeting the criteria of IUCN Category II. approx. 70 %
  - B- Protected areas meeting the criteria of other IUCN categories. approx. 30 %



C- Territories not having protected area status. 0 %

2.4 How many visitors do you welcome on a yearly basis? Approximately 21M visits

2.5 Who enforces the regulations governing the presence of dogs in your parks?  
Park rangers

2.6 Comments: While park rangers enforce the regulations, park operators (3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors) have the primary responsibility for compliance management in the frontcountry campgrounds and day use areas they manage.

## **SECTION B – GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Bloc 3 – Entry of dogs**

3.1 Are dogs permitted in your network's parks?

*\*If you answer "a" or "b", go straight to Question 3.5.*

3.2 What are the reasons for this answer?

3.3 Do you receive many requests from park visitors who would like to bring their dog to your park?

3.4 In your opinion, is it desirable for your network to permit the entry of dogs in your parks?

*\* If you answered "c" to Question 3.1, you have finished the survey.*

3.5 Is there an entry fee to the park for dogs?  
If so, please indicate the fee. \$

3.6 What % of visitors to your parks do you believe are bringing their dogs? approx. 10%

3.7 Comments:



In 3.1 I answered "Yes - in all parks". That's technically not correct as we have 2 parks (Garibaldi and Bowron Lake) that are closed to domestic animals by Regulation (s. 19.(5)). We haven't completed any formal surveys on the numbers so estimations throughout this survey are a best guess.

#### **Bloc 4 – Dog control**

4.1 When a dog is allowed entry to a park, must it be on a leash?

*\*If you answer "c", go straight to Question 5.1.*

4.2 Are there any regulations regarding the length of the leash?

If so, indicate the length: 2m

4.3 Is this regulation based on a law (provincial, territorial or municipal)?

If so, what is the basis? Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation s. 19(3)

4.4 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?

4.5 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? 50-60%

4.6 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?

4.7 Comments: Generally BC Parks seeks voluntary compliance. However in some parks/park areas we have zero tolerance and issue provincial violation tickets and/or evict the party. we also take this approach with repeat offenders or park visitors who fail to comply with requests to put their dogs on leash.

Uncontrolled dogs in the front country is the source of considerable public complaint. Substantial time and effort on the part of park operators and park rangers is directed towards this issue, and enforcing this regulation can be the source of considerable conflict for park operator and park rangers.

#### **Bloc 5 – Collecting dog feces**

5.1 Are dog owners obliged to pick up the feces of their dogs?

*\*If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 6.1.*

- 5.2 Is this regulation based on a law (provincial, territorial or municipal)?  
If so, what is the basis? Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation s. 19(6)
- 5.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?
- 5.5 Do you provide waste disposal bags to dog owners to facilitate their collection of dog feces?  
If so, indicate the number and the locations where waste dispensers are installed:
- 5.6 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? 40%
- 5.7 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 5.8 Comments: See comments under 4.7  
Good compliance in front country, less so in areas with less supervision or in the backcountry.

#### **Bloc 6 – Sharing the park with other visitors**

- 6.1 What regulations do you have regarding the disturbance of other visitors (barking, howling, aggressive behaviour, ..., day, night, ...)?  
We have a regulation prohibiting a person to allow their dog to cause an annoyance.
- 6.2 Is this regulation based on a law (provincial, territorial or municipal)?  
If so, what is the basis? Park, Conservancy and Recreation Area Regulation s. 19(4)
- 6.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?
- 6.4 What % of dogs do you believe cause a nuisance? 5-10%
- 6.5 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 6.6 Comments: See comments under 4.7

### **Bloc 7 – Supervision of dogs**

- 7.1 What level of supervision is required by a dog owner?
- a) A dog must always be under the owner’s supervision.
  - b) A dog may be left alone in a car, unattended.
  - c) A dog may be attached to its leash and left alone at a campsite or at the entrance of a building.
- 7.2 Is this regulation based on a law (provincial, territorial or municipal)?  
If so, what is the basis? We don't have a specific regulation to deal with supervision of dogs, but rely on a number of different sections to address Q 7.1 a-c.
- 7.3 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?
- 7.4 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? approx 80%
- 7.5 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 7.6 Comments: We don't have a specific regulation that addresses supervision of dogs but use other sections of the regulation to address the issue (e.g. s. 19(4)).

### **Bloc 8 – Number of dogs**

- 8.1 Are there any regulations restricting the number of dogs per visitor?  
If so, indicate the number:
- 8.2 Are there any regulations limiting the number of dogs per accommodation site?  
If so, indicate the number:
- 8.3 Is this regulation based on a law (provincial, territorial or municipal)?  
If so, what is the basis?
- 8.4 What penalty is usually applied to a person who does not respect this regulation?



- 8.5 In your opinion, what % of dog owners obey the regulation? %
- 8.6 Does non-compliance with the regulation represent a significant problem for you?
- 8.7 Comments: We don't have any regulations delaing specifically with number of dogs.

### **Bloc 9 – Animal health**

- 9.1 Do the dogs allowed into the park need to have been vaccinated?  
*\*If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 10.1.*
- 9.2 What are the vaccinations required?
- 9.3 What is your method of verification?

### **Bloc 10 – Layout and amenities**

- 10.1 Are there specific zones set aside and specifically laid out for dogs (e.g. dog parks)?  
  
*\*If you answer “no”, go straight to Question 11.1.*
- 10.2 What types of amenities are provided?  
Dog beaches / dog off-leash areas  
(See <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/recreation/dog-friendly/>)
- 10.3 What are the regulations associated with such places?  
These areas would be signed "off leash areas". Other regulations adressing behaviour, picking up excrement etc apply in these areas.
- 10.4 What are the benefits procured by these places?  
Gives the public an area to go with their pets that accomodates off leash / swimming activities.
- 10.5 What are the problems encountered in relation to these places?

Potential conflict between dogs, but not something that has been an issue to date.

## **SECTION C – AUTHORIZED SITES**

### **Bloc 11 – Sites where dogs are permitted**

11.1 For each site, identify the type of entry allowed for dogs. In cases where dogs are partially allowed, specify what on criteria you based that type of entry.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Level of accessibility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Lay-out</b>		
Walking/Hiking trail		As per regulations
Multifunctional trail (walking and cycling)		As per regulations
Snowshoeing trail		As per regulations
Cross-country skiing trail		As per regulations
Backcountry skiing trail		As per regulations
Picnic area		
Swimming area		Except at designated "off-leash" beaches
Playground		
Activity area/Amphitheatre		
<b>Buildings</b>		
Public building (e.g. the visitor centre, a snack bar)		
Exhibit hall		
Sanitary block		
Community shelter		
<b>Accommodations</b>		
Private accommodations (e.g. a room, a cabin or a ready-to-camp)		N/A
Dormitory		N/A
Serviced campground		As per regulations
Primitive campsite		As per regulations
Canoeing campsite		As per regulations
<b>Other</b>		
Lake or river (i.e. canoe, kayak, rowboat, fishing vessel)		As per regulations



Back country		As per regulations
Archaeological site		Except on trails etc.

**SECTION D – OVERVIEW**

**Bloc 12 – Overview**

12.1 What are the main benefits associated with the presence of dogs?

Many members of the public travel with the pets and prohibiting them from parks could reduce visitation.

12.2 What are the chief incidents that arise when dogs are present?

Nuisance / disturbances, potential aggressive behaviour of dogs, phobias for some visitors.

12.3 What are the most common complaints lodged concerning the presence of dogs?

Dogs off leash, nuisance, excrement, public safety from aggressive dogs.

12.4 How many cases of dog bites or attacks on people did you record last year?

None that I'm aware of, but don't keep comprehensive stats

12.5 How many incidents with injuries involving a wild animal and a dog did you record last year?

No available stats

12.6 How many cases of dog fights did you record last year? No available stats

12.7 Did people witness the disturbance of wildlife species attributable to the presence of dogs?

If so, what were they? No available stats, but does occur more regularly in back country

12.8 In the past few years, did you conduct any studies on the impact of the dogs in your parks?

If so, what were they?

12.9 Overall, is the entry of dogs in your establishment beneficial or profitable for your network?

We don't charge additional fees for dogs so it isn't profitable from that perspective. But if we were to prohibit dogs from campgrounds, there may be a loss of revenue as campers seek private campgrounds etc.

12.10 If you were to amend the regulations regarding the presence of dogs, what would you change?

Possibly re-word regs to include " animals under control" (e.g. electric collars). However this is not as clear as "restrained" so would increase complexity for rangers and park operators to enforce.

12.11 Do you have any other comments to make on the subject?

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13.1 Would you like to receive a copy of the survey findings?

You have now completed the survey. Simply forward it to [charest.rene@sepaq.com](mailto:charest.rene@sepaq.com).

Thank you for completing the survey!

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