



No BONES ABOUT IT!

www.vaughanunleashed.ca

Working Towards A Leash-Free Park In The City Of Vaughan

The Vaughan Dog Owners Group (VDOG) was founded to represent the interests of dog owners (and their dogs).

In that spirit, VDOG is working on behalf of dog owners (and their dogs) by participating on the City of Vaughan's Leash Free Working Committee. This committee, in addition to acting as a sounding board for issues related to the creation of a leash-free dog park in the City of Vaughan, is currently reviewing potential sites in order to make a recommendation to City Council. Since current by-laws forbid dogs from be-

ing off leash anywhere in the City, VDOG's involvement on this committee is a critical step in ensuring the interests of dog owners are represented to our elected representatives who, ultimately, will make the final decision with regard to this matter.

The time is right for dog owners to get involved. Here's how:

- Become a member of VDOG; register at www.vaughanunleashed.ca
- Contact your local/regional councilors and tell them to support the leash-free park (very important!!)
- Encourage your friends

and fellow dog walkers to contact their councilors

- Attend public meetings and make your voice heard

Consider volunteering with VDOG—We have a need for individuals to tackle activities in areas such as:

- Event coordination
- Writing and editing
- Membership development
- Promotion
- Book keeping



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What Is A Dog Park & Why Now In Vaughan?

A dog park, or an off-leash dog exercise area, is a fenced piece of land designated for the use of residents who wish to exercise their dogs safely and allow them to socialize with other dogs. It offers disposal facilities for dog waste, and may provide amenities such as benches,

shade, agility equipment and, water.

The City of Vaughan needs to find ways to offer more activities in our parks to serve more residents of different interests and age groups. Creating dog parks helps to fulfill this goal. VDOG would like the City of Vaughan

to install off-leash exercise areas because its park ordinance forbids dogs off leash in parks. This means that City of Vaughan residents have no local public space to exercise with their dogs off leash, and have been limited to walking them on sidewalks.

Vaughan Dog Owners Group

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We've done our best to



decipher your name & address from our petition. Please register on-line to confirm your information is correct and that you want to be a part of VDOG.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list please send a note to

admin@vaughanunleashed.ca

Woof! Woof!

Punish the Deed, Not the Breed

Bill 132 is now law—A ban that discriminates not by action or deed, but by physical appearance. A ban that targets not only "pitbulls", American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers", but haunts *ANY* pure-or-crossbred canine bearing a substantial physical resemblance to one of the aforementioned.

Regardless of your dog's breed, all dog owners are subject to the following sections of the *Dog Owners Liability Act*.

- Your dog must not bite or attack a person or a domestic animal nor behave in a manner that poses a menace to the safety of persons or domestic animals.
- You must exercise reasonable precautions to prevent the above behaviour.

- A peace officer may immediately seize your dog (in public or from wherever the dog is being kept) if they believe that you have violated any section of this Act, at any time, present or past. They do not necessarily need a warrant in order to seize your dog from your house and they may use as much force as necessary to accomplish this.
- If you are convicted, in addition to fines and jail time, the court may order: destruction of your dog; sterilization of your dog; control measures including muzzling, leashing, confinement, warning signs; prohibition of dog ownership.

For more information on Bill 132, the latest updates, news briefs and opportunities to participate and provide support, visit the following websites:

Dog Legislation Council of Canada
★ www.doglegislationcouncilcanada.org
Banned Aid Coalition
★ www.bannedaid.com/
Advocates for the Underdog
★ www.advocatesfortheunderdog.com
Dog Owner's Liability Act
★ www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90d16_e.htm
Pit Bull Regulations
★ www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/050157_e.htm

Taken from The Dog Owners' Liability Act of Ontario (2005) Information Sheet



Good Dogs Make Good Neighbours...

Is your dog a good neighbour? If you are not sure, how can you tell?

Here's the answer—Introducing the Canadian Kennel Club's *Canine Good Neighbour Program*.

The program evaluates dogs in a non-competitive format. The test allows dog and handler to demonstrate confidence and control in 12 steps. It assesses the handler and dog's relationship, together with the handler's

ability to control the dog. Dogs are evaluated on their ability to perform basic exercises as well as their ability to demonstrate good manners in everyday situations.

Canine Good Neighbours can be counted on to present good manners at home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. This will ensure that one of our most favoured companions, the dog, is accepted as a valued member of our communities

right across the country.

For more information contact the Canadian Kennel Club or visit their website: www.ckc.ca

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them.

~Phil Pastoret

Adequate Bill for Prevention of Animal Cruelty Needed

The Senate recently approved Bill S-213 which is a private member's bill introduced to amend the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code. It makes no changes whatsoever to the current offences which were originally enacted in 1892. It maintains the concept of 'wilful neglect' and continues to treat animal cruelty as a property offence.

There are some serious deficiencies with the archaic language of the current legislation that prevent abusive acts towards animals from being prosecuted. The current law considers

animals as property; offers very little protection for stray or wild animals; applies differently to different types of animals; makes it very difficult to prosecute cases of animal neglect; and does not make it an offence to kill animals brutally or viciously. Because animal cruelty crimes are currently property offences no different than vandalism to your car, the courts don't treat them seriously enough.

In addition, the current maximum sentence of \$2,000 fine and/or six months imprisonment is simply not appropriate punishment for heinous

animal abuse, nor does it act as a deterrent for perpetrators.

What can you do?

- Write your member of Parliament and the Justice Minister (sample letter available at: http://cfhs.ca/law/what_can_you_do/)
- Circulate for signature a petition calling for the government to introduce effective amendments to the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code based on Bill C-373 (link for petition can be found at: http://cfhs.ca/law/what_can_you_do/)