

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Important pet owner reminders

#### Summary

The City of Nanaimo would like to remind pet owners of a few important messages.

**Reminders for Dogs** - Dogs are not permitted on any of Nanaimo's beaches that haven't been identified on the off-leash map. This time of year the shoreline is active with migrating and breeding wildlife that should not be disturbed. Also, as the weather gets warmer, Nanaimo's beaches are busier with people wanting to use our City's waterfront areas. Additionally, please note that dogs are not allowed in playgrounds. We need to keep these areas clean and safe for kids to play in.

**Reminders for other pets** - Another reminder to all animal and bird owners that persistent cries, barks or howls are prohibited. Regulations are in place to ensure residents can benefit from the quiet, peace and enjoyment of their neighbourhood.

Thank you for following these regulations to ensure everyone has a positive pet experience in the City of Nanaimo. To report any animal issues, please call Animal Control at 250-616-0233.

*Strategic Link:* Environmental Responsibility Pillar to protect/enhance the environment.

#### Key Points

- Rules and regulations have been established through Council for the enjoyment and protection of the community's general population.
- Generally, dogs are not allowed on most beaches from May 1 to September 30 and on Pipers Lagoon beach until after October 31st. There are a few exceptions such as Invermere Beach Park which is a designated off-leash area during low tide.
- Pet owners can face a fine of \$150 - \$500 if these bylaws are breached.

#### Quotes

"Dogs are welcome off-leash at any of Nanaimo's 12, designated off-leash areas as well as on leash when visiting other Nanaimo Parks & Trails. We'd like to thank everyone for their cooperation."

Rod Davidson  
Manager of Bylaw, Regulation & Security  
City of Nanaimo

#### Quick Facts

- The following parks have designated off-leash areas: May Richards Bennett Pioneer, Beaufort, Westwood Lake, Invermere Beach, Northfield, Wardropper, Colliery Dam, St. George Ravine, Gallow's Point (Protection Island), Cable Bay Trail, Beban and Diver Lake (October - April).
- Please keep our parks, trails and beaches clean. Dog feces is essentially raw sewage. It contains harmful organisms like E. coli, Leptospira and roundworms. These organisms can be contracted by other dogs, wildlife and even children. Bacteria from dog feces can wash into popular swimming areas so it's important to properly dispose.

Continued... Important pet owner reminders

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