

TOWN OF VULCAN

POLICY MANUAL

TITLE OF POLICY

Off-Leash Dog Areas

POLICY NUMBER

PR-2

SUPERCEDES POLICY NO:

<u>Adopted</u>	<u>15.379</u>	<u>November 23/15</u>

STATEMENT:

The Town of Vulcan recognizes the benefits of a designated off-leash dog area that provides a safe area for owners to exercise and socialize their dogs. The Town also recognizes the requirement for responsible pet ownership within the designated off-leash dog area. This policy pertains to all permanent off-leash dog areas designated by Town council.

This policy is in addition to the Animal By-Law 1368-08.

PROCEDURE:

AMBASSADOR GROUP

The Town through the Recreation department, will establish and oversee an off-leash area Ambassador group.

The Ambassador group shall be defined as a user group comprised of up to five (5) Town of Vulcan residents who will provide input to Town staff regarding the implementation and use of off-leash dog areas.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The intent of the rules and regulations are to provide clear guidelines for the off-leash dog area users. Rules and regulations do not include off-leash areas etiquette which shall be developed in collaboration with the Ambassador program and promoted with the users of off-leash areas. Rules and regulations signage with hours of operations and emergency contact numbers shall be posted at the entrance of the off-leash area.

Off Leash Dog Area Rules and Regulations

1. Anyone entering the Vulcan Bark Park does so at their own risk. The Town of Vulcan is not responsible for the safety of person and /or dogs while in the Park, and shall not be liable to anyone for any injuries or damages suffered by any person or dog while in the Vulcan Bark Park.
2. All parking lots are on-leash, including the parking lot for designated off-leash area
3. Dogs must be kept on-leash until inside the double gated area
4. All dogs shall wear a visible dog license
5. Dogs are the “only” animals permitted in the Vulcan Bark Park
6. Handlers must scoop the poop and fill any holes dug by dogs under their control (doggy bags and receptacles on-site)
7. Dogs must be under the control and in view of their handler at all times
8. No children under the age of 14 are allowed in the park unless accompanied by an adult and the adult is the dog handler
9. Handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times, said leash shall be no more than two meters in length
10. To protect all dogs, please do not bring aggressive dogs to the park. Handlers must remove any dog displaying aggressive tendencies.
11. Handlers are limited to a maximum of three dogs
12. Female dogs in heat are prohibited
13. No glass containers permitted
14. No entrapment items such as but not limited to bikes and strollers in the fenced area
15. Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control
16. Other than dog treats, no food is permitted the park
17. No puppies under five months are allowed in the park
18. Dog owners shall not allow their dog(s) to become a nuisance to other people or animals in an off-leash area. Activities that constitutes a nuisance include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Allowing a dog(s) to run at a distance from the owner where the dog(s) cannot respond to voice or sign commands;
 - Dog(s) doing any act that injures a person or another animal;
 - Dog(s) chasing or otherwise threatening a person or another animal
 - Dog(s) biting;
 - Excessive barking, howling or otherwise disturbing any person or other animal;
 - Dog(s) causing damage to property
19. Dog owners must obey the orders of a designated Town representative, By-Law Officer, Ambassador and/or RCMP.
20. The dog park will be closed when maintenance is being done at the discretion of Public Works Foreman.
21. Fines for offences are outlined in schedule A of the Animal Control Bylaw #1368-08

IMPROVEMENT OF OFF-LEASH AREAS

Town staff, designated by Council, and the Ambassador group will meet four (4) times per year to review needs and requirements for off-leash areas. This review may include but not be limited to consideration of amenities, maintenance, operations and awareness.

The Ambassador group will establish park etiquette guidelines which will be posted in the off-leash dog area. Ambassador group members will provide suggestions for new initiatives and improvements to off-leash dog areas. Ambassador group members will also be involved with awareness and promotion initiatives.

Ambassador group members may choose to undertake fundraising initiatives for the off-leash area. Funds raised can be reinvested in off-leash area as recommended by the Ambassador group and approved by the Town. No amenities shall be added to an off-leash area without the prior consent of the Town.

ASSESSMENT OF OFF-LEASH AREAS

Town staff, as designated by Council, shall evaluate the performance of the off-leash dog areas once per year. In the evaluation process, staff will review comments received from off-leash park users and the general public and will also consider the following:

- A) public health concerns;
- B) number and severity of complaints;
- C) risk management issues;
- D) impact on land and surroundings;
- E) Non-compliance with municipal by-laws.

Where one or more indicators have been identified as areas of concern which could have an impact on public safety or quality of life, staff and the Ambassador group will determine if further actions are required to eliminate the concerns or if the off-leash area should be removed. Where site removal is preferred, a recommendation shall be submitted to the Town Council.

Off-leash area closures are at the discretion of council.

- END OF POLICY -