



The BC SPCA's mission is to enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

Have questions about how you can improve animal welfare in your community?

Contact us at:  
1-855-622-7722  
[animalbylaws@spca.bc.ca](mailto:animalbylaws@spca.bc.ca)



*The BC SPCA respectfully acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the numerous and diverse First Nations within British Columbia.*

*We express our gratitude to all Indigenous communities - First Nations, Métis and Inuit - for stewarding and sharing this land.*

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

[spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)

# YOU CAN PROVIDE PUBLIC SPACES FOR DOGS

*Safe, accessible dog-friendly spaces, especially in higher density neighbourhoods, can be important places for dogs and people to exercise and socialize outdoors.*

## ? WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Increasing rates of pet ownership and increasing density in our neighbourhoods mean there is less private space for dogs (like personal backyards). This has created a growing demand for safe, accessible, dog-friendly public spaces. Research has shown that pets contribute to their owner's mental, physical and emotional health, so making communities more welcoming for dogs is also an investment in people's health and well-being.

Dog-friendly public spaces can be a great place for well-socialized dogs and their owners to exercise, enjoy the outdoors and socialize with other dogs and people. Designated off-leash areas can reduce conflicts with other park users, reduce unsanctioned off-leash activity in more sensitive areas and protect wildlife.

## 💡 WHAT CAN WE DO?

You can talk to your friends, neighbours and dog owners in your community to find out what spaces they use and value, and what else might be needed.

As a local government, you can analyze access to and distribution of safe, accessible dog-friendly spaces throughout your community and allocate land and financing to develop more spaces where needed.

## ✓ WHO ELSE HAS TAKEN ACTION?

The City of Vancouver adopted its [People, Parks and Dogs: A Strategy for Sharing Vancouver's Parks](#) in 2017.

The District of Saanich is currently developing a [People, Pets and Parks](#) strategy.