

Wellington Southern and Eastern greyhound owners' case for a secure off leash dog exercise area



Greyhound FAQs

- An estimated 140 rehomed, ex-racing greyhounds in the Wellington region.
- 95+ owners are registered with Greyhounds as Pets. Potential owners are vetted prior to adoption.
- Another 10-12 GAP foster dogs at any given time
- Greyhounds have unique needs – they are naïve and very, very fast. They can see for up to 1km in the distance and reach speeds of 70 km in a matter of seconds.
- They are social, but very competitive dogs.

Our concerns

- NO large, safe, securely fenced **off-leash** dog spaces in the south/eastern Wellington region to run our hounds individually or as a social group.
- The off-leash, dog exercise areas in the Wellington area are unsafe for many dogs (particularly greyhounds) due to proximity to roads, bush where poison has been laid etc.
- Once a month there are 'hound runs' at kennel club facilities in Mana, Upper Hutt and a private property in Otaki. This is not sufficient for our needs and requires travel outside the central Wellington region.

Our request

- ***That Wellington City Council establishes a secure, dedicated dog exercise area with a view to the needs of larger dogs, in the South Wellington region.***
- We understand a precedent has been set in Tawa with the secure fencing of a dog exercise space.

Our requirements

- Large, grassed space.
- Secure boundaries (ie 1.5m high dog proof fencing. Double gated entrance, rounded corners).
- Safe for people and traffic as well as dogs – not too close to a busy road, preferably good parking/access, good lighting in winter.
- A facility that would allow us the ability to reserve times for exclusive group use.
- Rubbish bin.

Our suggestions

We have investigated several options within the South Wellington region and offer up the following ideas:

1. Converting one of the two now unused bowling club greens into a dedicated dog space – these are the Brooklyn (Tanera Park) green or the Vogelmorn bowling green (We understand there is also one in Karori)
2. After conversations with the Southern Environmental Association, they would be amenable to fencing off the open space at the Tawatawa reserve dog area adjacent to Murchison St and the carpark (with the proviso that the fence did not impact visually on the neighbourhood)

Members of the Wellington and Eastern suburbs greyhound group are willing to assist the Council with the fencing of such an area and contribute towards maintenance of it. We are also prepared to try and raise some funding to contribute towards the establishment of a suitable facility. We are also willing to try and get buy in from other dog groups in the area.

In return we request a set time each week for exclusive use of the space and this would be supported by Council.

Other councils are moving towards more dedicated dog spaces

Christchurch City Council has dedicated dog parks.

Waitaki Council is considering a proposal that would allow dogs and owners to access all neighbourhood parks between 7pm and 8am.

Palmerston North is also currently considering the establishment of a dedicated dog exercise space.

Potential benefits to council

- Use of assets that are not being fully utilised.
- Encouraging responsible dog ownership through the provision of a safe dog training facility

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Draft v2

18 June 2014