

pp Mary Ellen Gordon
Dog Wilkins &
Mike McKee
SPC 8 October 2009



A final plea from the people at DAWGS and hundreds of other dog owners to make Wellington a better, and more dog friendly city

Great cities are dog-friendly cities

- London, Vienna, Paris, San Francisco, and New York City are all much larger cities, by population, than Wellington. All of them have positive dog policies.
- All of them have implemented simple incentives and/or guidelines to promote responsible dog ownership.
- Canine nature and behaviour is the same in these places as it is in Wellington, and our diverse population is markedly similar to the populaces of these cities.

Welcoming dogs (on leads) into the city centre 24/7 would make Wellington a better city

- Dogs connect people to one another. Ask anyone: children and dogs are the primary means by which people in districts get to know one another. Our city centre would profit greatly from this small change.
- The Feces Fallacy - It is a fact that central districts which are open to controlled dogs at all hours have fewer, not greater, problems with dog feces. Scrutiny = fewer violations

Allowing dogs to be off leash but in control in parks, reserves and the town belt would fulfill the Council's obligations under the Dog Control Act and make Wellington more dog friendly

- The Council has an obligation to have regard for 'the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.'
- Under the status quo and proposed policies, the only off-leash areas are exercise areas which are too small for adequate exercise and regarded by many dog owners as unsafe.



Allowing dog owners to walk their dogs off lead in the parks, reserves and town the belt would enable dogs and owners to get more exercise and have a more enjoyable recreational experience (in keeping with the Council priority for healthy lifestyles). Wellington is the only one of the four largest New Zealand cities which does not already allow this type of access.