

DS107C - Feedback from Towns Cricket Club

From: Mike McQuie [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Declan Clayton [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request for Feedback - Off-Leash Dog Trial at Recreation Ground

Hi Declan,

Towns Cricket Club feedback summary:

The initiative has been a well-intentioned compromise for dog owners, but as a sporting club and lessee of the Rec Ground we have not observed any improvement in either of the two aspects that really annoy us.

Firstly the frequency of dog poo on the ground hasn't diminished. Secondly the number of times dogs run across the barricaded cricket pitch while it's still soft & sticky, prior to being rolled late in the week, and we are left to deal with removing dog prints from the clay surface. The first issue is a work hygiene issue for our curator & our players, the latter is more an inconvenience.

I don't believe the change in on-leash & off-leash timing has done anything to improve the above situations for sporting clubs/ground users. I base this on the number of times both issues arise whenever dogs are off-leash on the oval, regardless of time of day.

A few other observations:

- A significant percentage of owners completely ignore the new conditions, signage, etc and allow their dogs to run unleashed at any time of the day. See attached pics.
- In the six month season we've been at the Rec we have never once seen Rangers attend the ground for compliance purposes for these conditions.
- We have rarely observed dog poo left on the ground when the dog responsible is leashed, as the owner is in control & the dog is within reach at all times. Nor do leashed dogs enter the barricaded pitch area.
- Only rarely have we seen dogs on the oval during cricket matches, while the red flags are flying. That aspect has been successful.

Both myself and our pitch curator are regularly at the ground during cricket season from October - March inclusive, typically twice a day, morning and afternoon, and for the full day most Saturdays, so these observations are not one-offs.

Based on the above, our club's preference would be to have a far greater level of Ranger compliance monitoring/presence at the ground during both leashed & unleashed times, to educate owners dogs and if necessary, enforce punitive measures for repeated non-compliance. If that is not possible, we would push for on-leash at all times, however without Rangers monitoring, that too would continue to be largely ineffective, as it is now.

Trust this assists with the City's deliberations moving forward.

Regards

Mike McQuie - President - Towns Cricket Club



7/4/26; 1650pm



13/4/26; 1640pm (same owner & dog as previous pic)



7/3/26 1812pm



7/3/26 1846pm



7/3/26 1854pm



11/3/26 1651pm



14/3/26 1825pm



17/3/26 1526pm (note dog inside pitch barricaded area)



21/3/26 1655pm



23/2/26 1414pm



4/12/25 1741pm



4/12/25 1741pm



4/12/25 1818pm



18/12/25 1145am



20/12/25 1310pm (note cricket match in progress & red flag flying)