



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

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Robert Marino
President
NYCDog.org
Via Email: Ramnyc2000@yahoo.com

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Dear Mr. Marino:

Thank you for agreeing to submit this letter on our behalf.

The American Kennel Club operates the world's largest registry of purebred dogs and is the nation's leading not-for-profit organization devoted to purebred dogs. Among its missions, the AKC advocates good canine health, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and is a proponent of responsible dog ownership. We are very pleased with the recent decision of the NYC Board of Health to allow the Parks department to adopt clearer language in regards to off-leash rules in New York City Parks.

The AKC recognizes the special obligation of dog owners, not only to their pets but also to their neighbors and communities. Despite the numerous obstacles that the New York City environment presents for dogs owners, dogs remain extremely popular in this City – a testament to the comfort and companionship that they provide. Access to areas where dogs can exercise is essential to the quality of life for many New Yorkers, and in exchange for this privilege we urge all dog owners to uphold their commitment to their pets and their communities by behaving responsibly.

While the AKC generally supports all leash laws, New York City presents a unique challenge to dog owners, as few residents have yards or access to other outside spaces where their dogs may exercise. City officials have long recognized this by permitting restricted off-leash hours. This arrangement reflects a fair compromise between various parties using the parks and enables responsible dog ownership by providing an outlet for dogs to have exercise sufficient to meet the needs of their breed characteristics and individual nature.

This compromise, enhanced by the more specific rules the Parks department is about to establish, will no doubt encourage responsible dog ownership, enhance relations between dogs owners and other park patrons and allow more New York City residents to experience the joys of having a dog.

Regards,

Daisy Okas