

Pamela Martin

From: Municipal Hall
Subject: FW: Dogs

Hi Marnie,

Thank you for your thoughtful and context based concerns. There are no precise answers to your questions, valid as they are, which is the nature of enforcement. The Animal Control Bylaw has tools and protocols in place and they are used as appropriate for each individual case.

The Community Charter provides the authority to address Dangerous Dogs in an animal control bylaw. Individual municipalities can therefore create definitions and regulations for their community. The District of Central Saanich has a contract with the CRD for Animal Control Services as you know, and enforcement typically works in an escalated cause and effect.

The District's Animal Control Bylaw defines dangerous dogs as follows:

"Dangerous Dog" means a dog that:

- a) has killed or seriously injured a person, or has aggressively pursued or harassed a person without provocation; or
- b) an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person; or
- c) while in a public place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the dog, has killed or seriously injured a domestic animal; or
- d) has been found, previously, to be a dangerous dog and whose owner has received notice of that fact, and that again bites, attacks or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals.

The CRD has created some FAQs about these matters which you can read at <https://www.crd.ca/programs-services/animals-pets/animal-complaints> Scroll down on that page to read about dog bites & attacks and dangerous dogs.

Here are more specific responses to your core questions at the end of your email:

1. How are responsible dog owners with dogs who are dangerous to others supported? How do we manage those who aren't cooperative and do not comply?

If a dog owner manages their dog in accordance with the restrictions of the bylaw and/or as imposed on their dog, they would (in theory) be in compliance and the public safety of that dog would be controlled. If an owner does not adhere to the regulations, the evidence threshold must be built to warrant further enforcement action, such as ticketing, impounding the dog or court orders.

2. Do the bylaws need to be reviewed and adjusted? (Unfortunately, just adding a new category of "aggressive dog" does not solve the larger issues.)

This is something the CRD has identified – suggesting some standardization as they are the animal control experts for many of the lower island municipalities. And while that would make their job easier, again the individual occurrences of dogs that are identified as posing a risk to public safety is assessed on a case by case basis.

3. How do we make our community safer for all dogs and their owners?

The statistics for our region show that we are doing a good job of managing dogs. (For more info please contact animalcontrol@crd.bc.ca)

4. Perhaps a CRD wide set of rights, responsibilities and bylaws would be more effective? One of the big challenges is land jurisdiction. Does the problem occur on municipal, federal, provincial or private lands? Is Central Saanich collaborating with other Municipalities on this wide spread concern? Would this be helpful to citizens, police and bylaw officers alike?
Would a campaign of reminding dogs owners of both their rights and responsibilities be useful?

Referenced under question 2 and would be a Council directive for each municipality in the CRD. For the most part, the animal control bylaws align with dangerous and aggressive dog definitions and many municipalities have adopted recommendations from the CRD for their Animal Control bylaw. This is also on the work plan for Central Saanich in 2026. One of the recommendations from the CRD was to enact an aggressive dog definition to allow for different compliance measures based on the dog's behaviour. Dangerous dog was too broad and more discretion was identified as valuable for enforcement reasons.

Regards,

Mia Frankl

Mia Frankl

Bylaw Officer & Business License Inspector

District of Central Saanich

250-544-4237 | CentralSaanich.ca



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From: Marnie Wilson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: April 10, 2025 1:52 PM

To: Municipal Hall <Municipal.Hall@csaanich.ca>

Subject: Dogs

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Windsor and Councillors,

Re: Hot Topic - Dog Regulations and CRD Animal Control

This email is to express an ongoing issue with a dangerous dog in our neighbourhood since June, 2022. It is discouraging and sad to hear that a dog was recently killed in Centennial Park by another dangerous dog and that a private horse farm has continued issues with off leash and out of control dogs.

I have spoken with Councillor Newton on several occasions about this issue and his recommendation was to email a letter. It can be then be discussed at a Council meeting. We have been working with the CRD Animal Control department with limited success. The Central Saanich Police have also been involved as injury was caused to a human and land property issues are involved.

Balancing the needs of all residents with dogs is important and challenging. Is the CRD's current ability to deal effectively with dangerous dogs in our Municipality working well? In our experience, they fine dog owners who do not comply with Central Saanich Municipal dog bylaws. When it is warranted and after

many complaints, the owner of a dog that has hurt people or other dog may have strict conditions placed upon them such as wearing a muzzle, on leash and under control at all times, limited or no access to public parks/land, to name a few. When the owner does not comply fully, which was our case, they continue to hand out fines and warnings. These measures did little to protect our much small bred dog that was attacked twice. The dangerous dog owner continued to walk their dog in public without following the restrictions. Upon CRD's request, plenty of evidence was provided to them so that they could follow through. In March, 2024, I received a call from the head of CRD Animal Control and was informed that the dangerous dog designation had been removed. We were surprised and dismayed considering all the proof that we provided showing that the owner did not follow the restrictions and continued to put our safety and others at risk. It is well worth noting that we were not the only ones who were adversely affected by this owner and their dog.

Fast forward the passing of our little dog and the adoption of another dog to our family. We think it is reasonable right to be able to walk in our neighbourhood without fearing the safety of ourselves or our new dog. We amicably work with our other many dog owner neighbours. We have many resident and visiting dogs enjoy access to our area including Bear Hill Park. It is the nature of dogs that even "good dogs" will have issues with other dogs from time to time. We appreciate that most dog owners are respectful to others.

Questions:

How are responsible dog owners with dogs who are dangerous to others supported? How do we manage those who aren't cooperative and do not comply?

Do the bylaws need to be reviewed and adjusted? (Unfortunately, just adding a new category of "aggressive dog" does not solve the larger issues.)

How do we make our community safer for all dogs and their owners?

Perhaps a CRD wide set of rights, responsibilities and bylaws would be more effective? One of the big challenges is land jurisdiction. Does the problem occur on municipal, federal, provincial or private lands? Is Central Saanich collaborating with other Municipalities on this wide spread concern? Would this be helpful to citizens, police and bylaw officers alike?

Would a campaign of reminding dogs owners of both their rights and responsibilities be useful?

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Marnie Wilson

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