

## **Pet-related Issues**

Although Sunset Lakes is a self-contained community, with a corresponding set of covenants and by-laws, our community is part of the city of Ottawa and thus subject to municipal by-laws. With that being case, the city of Ottawa has primary jurisdiction over pet-related laws with some additional responsibility being borne by SLOA, under the existing SLOA covenants.

For example, under the SLOA covenants, **no pets are allowed in the pool area**, as the presence of pets would constitute a health and safety concern (enforced by SLOA). In fact, the SLOA website clearly states "WATERFRONT AREA - no pets in pool enclosure, sand beach, sand play area or volleyball court. Please remember throughout the subdivision, including trails, all pets must be leashed and "scooped" up after, it's the law." (<https://sunsetlakes.ca/owners-association-5/owners-association-3/pool-and-waterfront-guidelines>)

In this case, the 'law' refers to the city of Ottawa Public Health Dept. as it is this department that oversees the inspection and 'approval for use' of the SLOA community pool. If SLOA is denied approval, the SLOA community pool will not be allowed to open for use and enjoyment by all residents.

### **Owners and dog-walkers are required to collect and properly dispose of 'poop'**

Although this is typically more of a problem in the spring, after snow melt, residents and/or dog-walkers in our community are required to 'scoop up' after their pets, per city of Ottawa bylaws (see <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/animals-and-pets/dogs#section-39bd3baf-75b5-4a40-8b09-f1e6654ba1f6>). However, in addition to the health-related requirements of the existing city by-laws, picking up after your pet is simply common courtesy.

As well, although not a common problem, uncollected feces, when left in our community can attract unwanted wildlife, such as coyotes, which feed on the feces. Just another reason to ensure 'poop and scoop' is more than just a slogan.

### **No off-leash dog walking within SLOA community**

As noted above, despite Sunset Lakes being community is unique within the city of Ottawa, city of Ottawa municipal by-laws still apply to the streets in our community and the Sunset Lakes common property areas. In other words, although the Sunset Lakes common property areas are privately owned by SLOA, that does not mean that you, as a SLOA resident, can treat those areas as if they are your own private property. For example, when it comes to dog walking, residents must exercise the same level of control over their dogs as they would for any other part of the city that is NOT designated as an off-leash area. The Sunset Lakes common property areas are NOT designated as off-leash areas and it thus improper to allow you dog off leash outside of your own property.

On past occasions, while using SLOA's common areas (i.e. walking, running bicycling, etc..), residents have experienced situations where they were startled by dogs that were either intentional left off-leash

by their handlers or had escaped the bounds of their property and approached the residents in a rapid and unfriendly manner; i.e. growling and snapping. Such situations, while often free of any physical harm, can often be traumatizing to the unsuspecting person. The city of Ottawa has a by-law that covers this specific situation. (<https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/laws/laws-z/animal-care-and-control-law-no-2003-077#section-be3d05e6-8d8a-476a-811a-6b4bd141d9cc> - see sections 9 to 17)

While dogs may very well be 'man's best friend', some people are intimidated by them; as a consequence, dog owners must ensure that their pets are in control at all times - so as to not pose a threat to their fellow residents.

As a final note, if you experience a situation such as that described above, you are encouraged to speak with the pet owner to see if the problem can be resolved quickly and amicably. If the situation precludes such contact, the SLOA board recommends contacting the city Ottawa by-law enforcement team, using the contact information below, or, in dangerous situations, contacting Ottawa Police Services, in order to file a complaint, by either:

- calling 311 - for complaints and nuisances;
- submitting a pet-related online by-law complaint to the city of Ottawa - <https://ottawa.ca/en/3-1-1/report-or-request/animals-and-pets> or
- referring to the city of Ottawa website - <https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/animals-and-pets> and/or <https://ottawa.ca/en/3-1-1/report-or-request/issue-city-staff-or-facility/submit-complaint-city>

This type of situation (loose / uncontrolled dogs in the neighbourhood) is unacceptable, yet easily avoided if dog owners do their part and ensure that their 'best friends' are always on their best behaviour. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

For off leash enjoyment within the city of Ottawa, please refer to: <https://ottawa.ca/en/recreation-and-parks/facilities/parks-and-green-space/dog-parks#section-f983ac81-bb56-40aa-bdaf-55652da04cf2>