



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Members of Council

From: Sarah Jones

Position: Supervisor By-Law Enforcement and Animal Services

Title / Subject: Animal Control By-Law Amendments – Off-Leash Dog Park

Date of Meeting: September 8, 2025

Report No: 2025-PS-010

1.0 Issue / Origin

The purpose of this report is to recommend amendments to the Township of Brock Animal Control By-Law No. 2446-2012-PP, as amended, to incorporate specific restrictions and operational guidelines for off-leash dog parks within the Township. It includes proposed wording for signage, developed in alignment with the Municipal Insurance Pool, and tailored to reflect Brock-specific requirements.

At the Council meeting held on July 28, 2025, Report No. 2025-PRF-01—authored by R. Wayne Ward, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities—regarding the proposed location for an off-leash dog park was deferred to the Council meeting scheduled for September 8, 2025. This report is intended to complement and support Report No. 2025-PRF-01.

2.0 Background and Analysis

Staff conducted a comprehensive review of Animal Control By-Law No. 2446-2012-PP, as amended, along with a comparative analysis of off-leash dog park regulations across municipalities within Durham Region and other Ontario Municipalities. Based on this review, staff recommend amending the existing by-law to include specific rules and regulations for off-leash dog parks, rather than adopting a separate stand-alone by-law, as seen in municipalities such as Cobourg and Owen Sound.

Additionally, staff examined signage used in established off-leash dog parks throughout the Region. The review confirmed that best practices include prominently posted signage outlining rules for appropriate conduct. These standards are consistent across local municipalities and should be considered alongside any signage recommendations provided by the Municipal Insurance Pool.

REGION OF DURHAM OFF-LEASH DOG PARK BY-LAW COMPARISON

MUNICIPALITY	# LEASH FREE DOG PARKS	ENFORCEMENT REGULATION BYLAWS	LEASH FREE DOG PARK POSTED RULES/REGS
AJAX	3	Dog and Cat By-Law No. 48-2017 *Specific regulations for off leash dog parks	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
BROCK	0	N/A	N/A
CLARINGTON	3	By-Law No. 2013-024 Responsible Pet Ownership *Specific regulations for off leash dog parks	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
OSHAWA	2	Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law No. 14-2010 *No specific regulations contained within By-Law (definition only)	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
PICKERING	3	Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law No. 6811/07 *No specific regulations contained within By-Law (definition only)	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
SCUGOG	1	Animal Control By-Law No. 85-08 *No reference in By-Law of off-leash dog parks	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
UXRIDGE	1	Animal Control By-Law No. 2009-081 *No reference in By-Law of off-leash dog parks	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area
WHITBY	2	Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law 7294-17 * No specific regulations contained within By-Law (definition only)	Rules posted at entrance to each leash free area

By-law Number 3364-2025, attached as Appendix "1", is a draft by-law of the recommended amendments to Animal Control By-Law 2446-2012-PP, as amended.

Appendix “2”, is a draft of the changes to the short form wording offences and fines related to the recommended amendments to the by-law which will be presented to the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Recommended Signage for Off-Leash Dog Park

As per best practices in Durham Region and areas outside for signage at Off-Leash Dog Parks, it is recommended by staff that the following type of sign is included:

Leash-Free Dog Park Etiquette

Hours of Use: 6am – 10:pm (Township of Brock Parks By-Law No.1977-2006-PP)

- For safety reasons, children under six years are not allowed to enter the park.
- An adult must supervise any child between six and 12 years of age.
- Keep your dog(s) on leash until you are inside the fenced area.
- Upon entering and exiting, keep your dog(s) on leash to prevent escapes.
- Do not bring toys, this may create guarding or territorial issues.
- Do not bring any food (including dog treats) into the leash-free park.
- Clean up after your dog.
- Do not bring female dogs in heat or unaltered male dogs into the park.
- Limit the number of dogs you bring into the park to a maximum of three.
- Always keep your dog in sight and within voice range.
- Make sure your dog is up to date on their vaccinations.
- If your dog is bullying, or being bullied, leave the park immediately.
- No digging. Fill in any holes your dog has created.
- Respect the rules of the dog park.

Regulated and Enforced Township of Brock Animal Control By-Law No. 2446-2012-PP

3.0 Related Policies / Procedures

N/A

4.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

There will be some expenses incurred relating to having the signs prepared and posted and it is recommended that the cost of the signs form part of the project costs.

5.1 Asset Management

N/A

5.0 Climate Change Impacts

N/A

6.0 Communications

Information shall be available on public agenda and available on Township communication pages.

7.0 Conclusion

This report proposes amendments to the following By-Law: Animal Control By-Law 2446-2012-PP. The proposed amendment is required to ensure that the Township can enforce off-leash dog park rules and regulations that are designed to protect the safety of all park users, with or without dogs. Further this report provides recommendations for risk management considerations by the inclusion of signage, consistent with neighbouring Municipalities, that identifies and educates the public with respect to off-leash dog park rules and regulations, along with any other signage as the Municipal Insurance Pool recommends for installation at the off-leash dog park.

8.0 Recommendation

Be It Resolved That Report No. 2025-PS-010, “Animal Control By-law Amendments – Off-Leash Dog Park”, be received; and

That Council approve the recommended changes to the Animal Control By-law as outlined in Report No. 2025-PS-010, and;

That Council directs staff to present By-Law No. 3364-2025 being a by-law to amend Animal Control Bylaw 2446-2012-PP, at the Council meeting held on September 22, 2025; and

That Council directs staff to apply to the Ministry of Attorney General, Ontario Court of Justice, to include the changes to the Animal Control Bylaw set fines, attached as Appendix “2” to Report No. 2025-PS-010.