

## Christine Havelka

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**From:** webforms@victoria.ca  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2015 9:27 AM  
**To:** Council Secretary  
**Subject:** Thank you for your submission - City of Victoria - Address Council Form

**Name:** Sheri Andersen **Date:** December 07, 2015

**Address:** 954 Maddison Street

**I wish to appear at the following Council meeting:** December 10, 2015

**I represent:** Self

**Topic:** Animal Control

**Action you wish Council to take:**

To review and comment on the suggestions and recommendations which I have made in a letter (November 6, 2015) to the City of Victoria Bylaw Enforcement Department. I have investigated the CRD Animal Control services and understand the "flawed" system of (three sets of) bylaws under which they operate. I wish to see revision to have one set of bylaws in existence which are reasonable to establish safety and protection for people and animals.

**CONTACT INFO:**

**Contact Name:** Sheri Andersen

**Contact Address:** 954 Maddison Street

**Contact Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

**Contact Email:** [REDACTED]

## Christine Havelka

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**From:** Council Secretary  
**Subject:** FW: Animal Control

**From:** Sheri Andersen  
**Date:** November 6, 2015 at 6:55:22 PM PST  
**To:** [bylawenforcement@victoria.ca](mailto:bylawenforcement@victoria.ca)  
**Subject:** Animal Control

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently encountered on three separate occasions, people walking pitbull/rotweiler/cross (unverified breeds) canines off leash in the area where I live. In one case, I was compelled to pick up my own dog as a pitbull was approaching at a considerable distance from its owner. The owner of the animal called out that "his dog was friendly" (beside the point!) and said that "I was ignorant" as he approached separately. This incident left me, my friend who happened to be outside her house observing as well as my dog, feeling very distressed. This should never, ever happen on a daily dog walk. Although I live in the Municipality of Victoria, I am only a few blocks away from Oak Bay, where I grew up, and therefore walk my dog in two municipalities every day. It makes absolutely no sense that different bylaws exists in each municipality. This is truly what first needs to be amended.

When one is dealing with a stressful incident such as an encounter with an aggressive breed and its (aggressive) owner, the last questions one wishes to answer as a first step is "what district was this in?" as the officer enquires in order to know which bylaws to apply to the given situation. This is absurd, frustrating and ultimately negligent. The officers are simply doing their job, yet it is the issue of "politics" which dictates how they function within three areas. What this effectively accomplishes is constipated and officious interactions. It is tantamount to dealing with the military.

Within the past few weeks, I have contacted Animal Control for assistance on two individual incidents and then again to investigate the bylaws concerning off-leash dogs. Our city's animal control officers do an outstanding job of attending to concerns about animals at large, dogs off-leash and some of the other unfortunate incidents which occur with uncontrolled animals.

I spoke just yesterday with a couple of people (accompanied by their small dogs) who reside in Saanich and they mentioned to me that dogs in their (large) district are allowed off leash if they are under control by their owners. This seems subjective. These people did not like this leniency and in fact make a habit of walking their dogs in my neighbourhood. I also live close to the Saanich boundary.

Animal control bylaws need to be uniform and consistent no matter where one lives within the Capital Regional, as one of my neighbours pointed out "end of story". The bureaucracy needs to be pared right down to the basics of providing protection for people and animals within the Capital region. It should be territorial rather than municipal. Ostensibly, it would be most efficient and cost effective for all municipalities to function under the same reasonable set of rules. I would recommend that the public be consulted on this matter as I know of no one who finds the current system reasonable.

I am requesting a meeting the with Mayor of Oak Bay to discuss this matter and perhaps get some direction on how the current system may be altered. In the meantime, I have learned that the City of Victoria contracts to Animal Control for the mail out of dog licence renewal notices. What I would appreciate seeing in this next mailing for the 2016 dog licences, is the inclusion of a directive to all dog owners (at least within the three municipalities) to keep dogs on leash (apart from the parks where off-leash is allowed) and under control at all times. The implications and penalties for not doing so (fines) should also be very clearly outlined within the content of the notice. Anyone purchasing a licence for their animal will see this information and like with any other licence, adhere to the

conditions outlined. A signature should be required, as with a contract. It should not just be about paying an annual fee but rather responsible pet ownership.

As I am a visible member of my community (no boundaries), I feel as though I have spoken to more than enough friends, neighbours and acquaintances about these issues and know of no one who does not share the views I have outlined. I have recommended to many people that they use their cell phones to photograph the dogs with their owners, who behave as those I encountered over the past few weeks, when they refuse to have their dogs on leash. I also recommend that the phone number for Animal Control be readily available on people's cell phones. In speaking with officers at animal control, this recommendation is considered to be a good idea. Could this pragmatic suggestion not be disseminated through the renewal notice as well?

I will look forward to hearing from you regarding my questions and concerns.

Many thanks,

Sheri Andersen  
954 Maddison Street  
Victoria, BC  
V8S 4C5