

**Dog Task Force Committee Meeting**  
**October 21, 2003**  
**Meeting Notes**

Kim Kiefer, Director of Juneau Parks and Recreation, briefed the people present about the mission of this new committee. The committee will consist of approximately 13 people, a representative from the Forest Service, State Parks, Trailmix, Gastineau Humane Society, Capital Kennel Club, Juneau Police, State Fish and Game, Discovery Southeast, Juneau Parks and Recreation and people from the public. It is the Kim's hope that the public will represent different points of view. These people will need to be able to commit to meetings every couple of weeks for 3-4 months. This group will be similar to the Trails Working Group which worked together to evaluate trails and areas that would be suitable for commercial use.

The following issues were presented as possible topics for this committee to address:

- Migration, Nesting and other sensitive habitat areas times besides birds
- Education
  - Good trail etiquette
  - Reward good behavior and for following rules
- Enforcement-reasonable enforcement, clearly written policies
- Signage
- Possibly creating a place where dogs can run without leashes
- Possibly locating an area where dogs can be taught obedience, retrieving and tracking
- Possibly establishing trails where dogs will not be allowed for people who are afraid
- Commercial Use
- Offending Dogs
- Repeat Offenders
- Impact to other users

Chava Lee, Director of Gastineau Humane Society stated that they are one of the few facilities that do animal control and provide a shelter. Chava stated the following statistics:

- They get about 5 calls per week about dogs charging or threatening people
- 90% of their calls are from people complaining that they aren't doing enough enforcing of regulations
- A fifth of the serious dog bites happen on trails
- They have seen the numbers rise from 2 bites per month to 12 per month in the last 18 months
- There are several people in town training dogs to attack with around 5 seriously offending dogs in Juneau
- Ordinances need to be tightened up to make dog owners more responsible

The public brought up the following comments/suggestions:

- Request that Gastineau Humane Society provide more numbers, especially with regard to the vicious dogs. The majority of the bites happen on the Mendenhall Wetlands Trail and the Brotherhood Trail - the two most popular trails
- The committee should look at the education aspect and not just ordinances
- Make progressive fines
- Define what good citizenship is for people who don't have dogs and educate people with kids and provide trail etiquette education
- If sensitive areas are selected to restrict dogs there needs to be science to back it up
- Suggest group have a few evening meetings
- Another person who works for the airlines said they have issues with a lot of dogs and supposedly service dogs who are allowed to ride in the plane

Larry West of Discovery Southeast stated they are willing to help with education and have an excellent list of grantors/research/statistics. There are also articles and other information on their web site at:[discoverysoutheast.org](http://discoverysoutheast.org)

The next meeting is Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:15-2pm at the Downtown Juneau Library, large conference room.

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